

ILLINOIS TOWNS M-V

DRAWER 1&A

ILLINOIS TOWNS

23

2007 JIS 0110



# Illinois

## Illinois Towns

M-V

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Chicago Daily News  
July 9, 1958

## ***Park to Be Dedicated***

*From Our Springfield Bureau*

MARSHALL, Ill. — Lincoln Trail state park, a 930-acre wooded tract south of here with a 168-acre lake will be dedicated Sunday.

Gov. Stratton will be intro-

duced by State Rep. John W. Lewis Jr. (R., Marshall), chairman of the celebration.

The lake has a 10-mile shoreline. Thirteen miles of all-weather roads are open to picnic and access areas.



# *Everyone likes* MATT OON

LOCATED IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS







One of Mattoon's Lovely Homes



A Typical Broad Shady Street



Another Mattoon Home and Garden

# Everyone



## ITS PEOPLE . . .

There are 18,000 friendly citizens in Mattoon whose intense interest in community and civic affairs has welded them into a live, aggressive group of people that really "do things" — the sort of folks that everyone likes to know. The city itself covers an area of over four square miles. Evidence of the city's social alertness is apparent in its roster of important clubs and civic groups which include the Kiwanis, Rotary, Young Business Men's Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, Women's Federated Club, Country Club, Elks' Club, Civic Music Association, and many others including a live Newcomer's Club.



## ITS HOMES AND WIDE STREETS

Few cities its size can boast as many fine, well-kept homes and broad, spacious streets as Mattoon. Its forty-eight miles of paved streets are lined with thousands of beautiful shade trees, lovely parks, and prosperous homes. Western Avenue, Charleston Avenue, and Broadway, three of the leading thoroughfares, measure 100 feet from side-walk to side-walk and are famed far and wide for their solid beauty.





# likes MATTOON

## TRANSPORTATION

Probably in no field of endeavor does Mattoon excel so completely as in the transportation field. As the cross-roads of two of the countries leading railroads, the New York Central and the Illinois Central; as a terminal and office headquarters for the nationally known Hayes Freight Lines and Yellow Transit Company; as an intersection of three major highways with complete bus services; as the proud benefactor of an excellent city bus system; and as the location of a fully-equipped airport, Mattoon is blessed with every type of transportation facility.



The Old Iron Horse — N. Y. C. Main Line



Illinois Central Station



Home Terminal — Hayes Freight Lines

Mattoon's Fine Airport

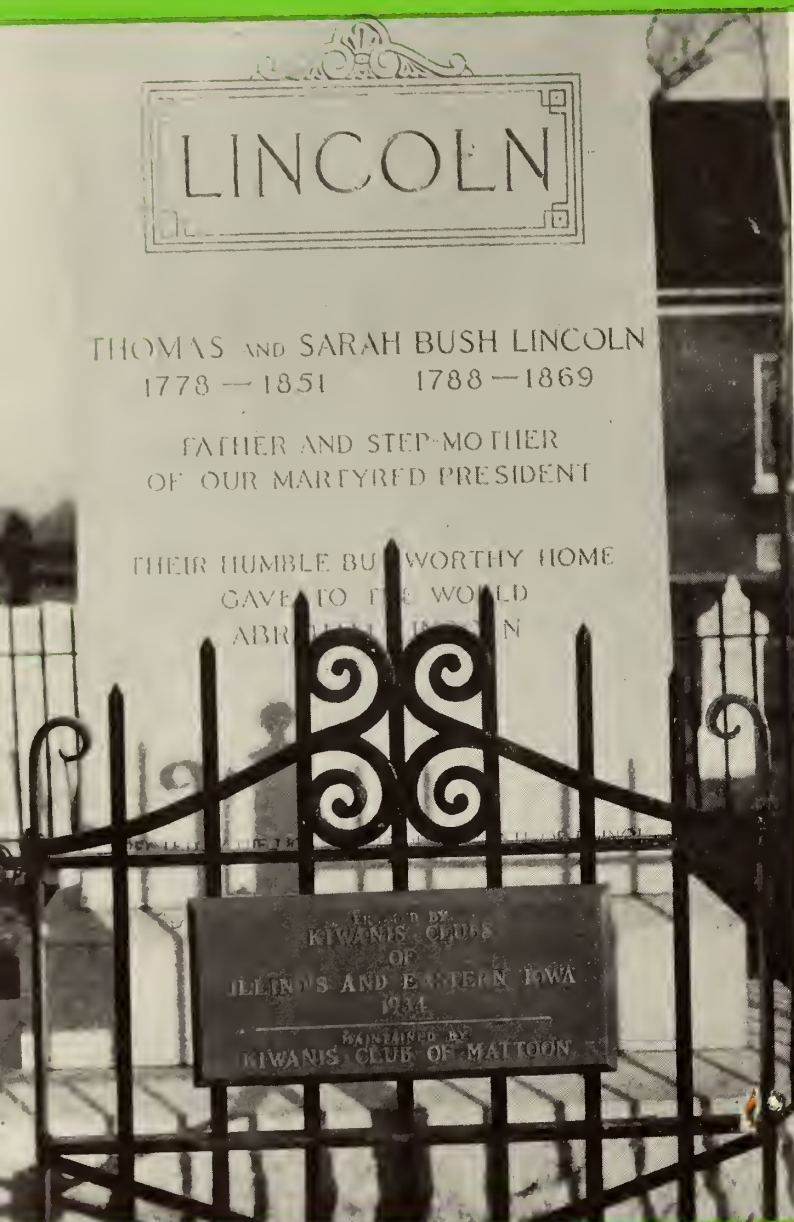


Mattoon's Modern City Buses





# Everyone likes MATTOON



## ITS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Mattoon is in the heart of the Lincoln Country and mid-way between Vincennes and Springfield on the Lincoln Memorial Highway.

Twelve miles southeast of Mattoon in the old Shiloh Cemetery, the parents of Abraham Lincoln are buried. One mile from the Cemetery is the old Lincoln homestead which Abraham Lincoln purchased and gave to his father. This land was later deeded to the State, a replica of the original cabin erected, and the old farm home became Lincoln Log Cabin State Park.



The Grave of Lincoln's Parents Southeast of Mattoon

## MATTOON INVITES YOU

The industrial and trade opportunities in Mattoon are truly extraordinary. Many fine industrial sites, well located for rail or truck transportation are available. The abundance of American born labor is especially attractive.

Many fine local and national offices are located in Mattoon. Included among these are (1) the home office of the Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company serving 28 communities, (2) Division Headquarters for Central Illinois Public Service Company serving 215 towns with gas and light, (3) The Midcontinent Map Company, (4) The Division Office for the U. S. Employment Service, (5) The Carter Oil Company, (6) Cities Service Oil Company, (7) Gulf Refining Company, and (8) The Texas Company. Mattoon, because of its major oil offices and close proximity to the great oil fields of Illinois, has been called the "Gateway to the Illinois Oil Fields".

The Association of Commerce cordially invites you to write for information of any kind. You may be assured that it will be given to you promptly and freely.

THE MATTOON ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE - MATTOON, ILL.

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# MATTOON'S 80th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING-CELEBRATION

JULY

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

1934

MATTOON, ILLINOIS

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Business Interests  
Louis Bartelsmeyer  
Church Day  
W. G. Sawin  
Farmers' Day  
J. D. Andrews  
Floral Parade  
B. B. Cole  
Reception  
John R. Hamilton  
Membership  
F. J. Ritter  
Coles County Day  
C. H. Fletcher  
Publicity  
W. B. Hamel  
Pageant  
E. L. Smith  
Lincoln Day  
H. R. Checkley  
Old Settlers, Historical  
C. H. Douglas  
Organization Day  
Jake Stump Jr.  
Horse Show, Rodeo  
R. A. Lumpkin  
Decorations  
Gus Schlicher  
Legion Day  
Joe Heiman  
Concessions  
Carl Watkins  
Invitations  
J. W. Gibler  
Municipal Activities  
Dr. E. E. Richardson  
City Beautiful  
Dr. G. F. Corley  
Parades  
F. S. Schilling  
Advance Sale Tickets  
W. E. Checkley  
Street Entertainments  
Gus Schlicher  
Oratorio  
E. Guy Sutton

May 4th, 1934

Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Gentlemen:

July 1st to the 8th inclusive, we are putting on an 80th Anniversary and Home-Coming celebration.

Our program of entertainment and activities for the week include a Pageant on the nights of July 2nd and 3rd; Lincoln's life in Coles County will be depicted, also the early history of Mattoon.

The big day of the entire week is Lincoln Day, July 6th. Governor Horner will be the principal speaker on the Lincoln Day program. Also, Mrs. Eleanor Gridley of Chicago will be here. The State of Illinois is sending down a large Lincoln exhibit for the entire week and on Lincoln Day Mr. Fay, who is in charge of Lincoln's Tomb, will be here and accompanying him, Mr. Ben Thomas, executive secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association, Judge Logan Hay, president of the Abraham Lincoln Association and many other Springfield, Illinois Lincoln enthusiasts.

Our Executive Committee inquires if your Company would be interested in putting on a Lincoln display or assisting us in any way with our program. I believe it would be good publicity for your Company and, in turn, you can rest assured our Committee would co-operate with you in every way.

The writer is in the insurance business and is familiar with the standing of your Company and your interest in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Awaiting with interest your reply, I remain

Yours very truly,

*W. E. Checkley*

HRC:S

P.S. For your information, I am enclosing clipping from today's local newspaper.



May 8, 1934

Mr. H. R. Checkley  
Box 28  
Mattoon, Illinois

My dear Mr. Checkley:

Most certainly The Lincoln National Life Foundation would be pleased to cooperate in providing for the celebration at Mattoon a collection of Lincoln photographs. We have an indefinite number of these; we might include all of the portraits of Lincoln statues which have been erected in America, some 50 in number. These photographs would sized about 8x10. Also close to one hundred photographs of Abraham Lincoln reproductions could be made the same size.

If you will let us know how much wall space will be available we could then better arrange a display which we hope might be suitable for your needs.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:LH

Director

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# MATTOON'S 80th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING-CELEBRATION

JULY  
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8  
1934

MATTOON, ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John McNutt, Chairman  
John W. Gibler, Vice Chairman  
E. A. Purcell, Treasurer  
David J. Twomey, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Frank J. Ritter  
E. Leo Smith  
Jesse D. Andrews  
W. B. Hamel  
R. A. Lumpkin  
Gus Schlicher  
L. G. Bartelsmeyer  
J. E. Heiman  
H. R. Checkley  
W. G. Sawin

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Business Interests  
Louis Bartelsmeyer  
Church Day  
W. G. Sawin  
Farmers' Day  
J. D. Andrews  
Floral Parade  
B. B. Cole  
Reception  
John R. Hamilton  
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Coles County Day  
C. H. Fletcher  
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H. R. Checkley  
Old Settlers, Historical  
C. H. Douglas  
Organization Day  
Jake Stump Jr.  
Horse Show, Rodeo  
R. A. Lumpkin  
Decorations  
Gus Schlicher  
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Joe Heiman  
Concessions  
Carl Watkins  
Invitations  
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City Beautiful  
Dr. G. F. Corley  
Parades  
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Advance Sale Tickets  
W. E. Checkley  
Free Entertainments  
Gus Schlicher  
Oratorio  
E. Guy Sutton  
Buildings and Grounds  
Walter Cox  
Coronation of Queen  
W. E. Orndorff  
Transportation Day  
J. E. Bleakley  
Business Interests  
Guarantee Fund  
G. H. Cokendolpher

Dr. Louis A. Warren  
Historical Research Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Mr. Warren:

Our Lincoln Day Committee appreciates your kind letter of May 8th offering to cooperate with us and furnish a Lincoln exhibit.

We can give you as much wall space as you desire. If you will tell me about how much you can use, we will prepare accordingly.

Plans are under way for making Lincoln Day the big day of our Celebration and below is a tentative program for the day: 10 A.M. - lecture by Mr. Fay, who will be in charge of our Lincoln exhibit. Our Lincoln exhibit will be on display during the entire week, however, Mr. Fay will be on hand just the one day. He is providing a large portion of the Lincoln exhibit. Noon: - Governor's Luncheon, at which time we will entertain Governor Horner, Mrs. Eleanor Gridley and the out of town guests. After the luncheon, we will have a parade to the Homecoming and Anniversary Celebration grounds, at which place Mrs. Gridley and Governor Horner will speak. After the program at the grounds, trips will be made to the various Lincoln Shrines in this County. During the evening - Rodeo and Horse Show. A special Lincoln picture will be exhibited at the local Theatre.

Enclosed in your letter, I note Lincoln Shrine Pilgrimage starting Tuesday, June 12th. I am wondering if the itinerary could be changed so that lunch could be had in Mattoon. Leaving Charleston at 11:15, you would hardly arrive in Decatur in time for lunch.

We would like very much to have the party stop in Mattoon for lunch. We could have in attendance all persons interested in Lincolniana in this community. It would be quite an event.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO ROOM 313 LUMPKIN BUILDING

# MATTOON'S 80th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING-CELEBRATION

JULY  
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8  
1934

## MATTOON, ILLINOIS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John McNutt, Chairman  
John W. Gibley, Vice Chairman  
E. A. Purcell, Treasurer  
David J. Twomey, Secretary

### DIRECTORS

Frank J. Ritter  
E. Leo Smith  
Jesse D. Andrews  
W. B. Hamel  
R. A. Lumpkin  
Gus Schlicher  
L. G. Bartelsmeyer  
J. E. Helman  
H. R. Checkley  
W. G. Sawin

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Business Interests  
Louis Bartelsmeyer  
Church Day  
W. G. Sawin  
Farmers' Day  
J. D. Andrews  
Floral Parade  
B. B. Cole  
Reception  
John R. Hamilton  
Membership  
F. J. Ritter  
Coles County Day  
C. H. Fletcher  
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E. L. Smith  
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H. R. Checkley  
Old Settlers, Historical  
C. H. Douglas  
Organization Day  
Jake Stump Jr.  
Horse Show, Rodeo  
R. A. Lumpkin  
Decorations  
Gus Schlicher  
Legion Day  
Joe Helman  
Concessions  
Carl Watkins  
Invitations  
J. W. Gibley  
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Dr. E. E. Richardson  
City Beautiful  
Dr. G. F. Corley  
Parades  
F. S. Schilling  
Advance Sale Tickets  
W. E. Checkley  
Free Entertainments  
Gus Schlicher  
Oratorio  
E. Guy Sutton  
Buildings and Grounds  
Walter Cox  
Coronation of Queen  
W. E. Orndorff  
Transportation Day  
J. E. Bleakley  
Business Interests  
Guarantee Fund  
G. H. Cokendolpher

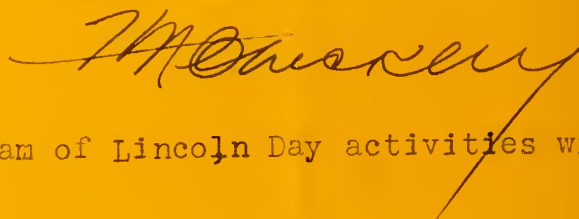
#2 Dr. Louis A. Warren  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Suggest the luncheon be held at the Hotel U. S. Grant. A picture of the Hotel is enclosed. The writer, as Chairman of the Operating Committee, will see that all details are taken care of in the best possible manner.

Mattoon is particularly anxious to have some recognition in the Lincoln Shrine Pilgrimage and I hope there is some way that the arrangements can be changed, as mentioned above.

Looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you personally on Lincoln Day, I remain

Yours very truly,



HRC:S

P.S. A complete program of Lincoln Day activities will be sent to you later.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO ROOM 313 LUMPKIN BUILDING



# MATTOON'S 80th ANNIVERSARY

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

# JULY

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

# 1934

May 22, 1934

MATTOON, ILLINOIS

JUNE 1, 1934

Mr. H. R. Checkley  
313 Lumpkin Bldg.  
Mattoon, Illinois

My dear Sir:

As the time for your coming celebration arrives we will be glad to forward pictures relating to Lincoln and give you some idea how much space would be required. I believe now we will be able to send you something over a hundred pictures, measuring about 8x10 inches so that they can be seen from some distance and would not necessarily have to be arranged for close observation.

With reference to any changes in our schedule affecting Mattoon, I feel quite sure we would not be able to make alterations as we must reach Decatur by luncheon time, although luncheon is somewhat late.

Very sincerely yours,

Director

LAW:LH

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# MATTOON'S

## 80th ANNIVERSARY

### HOMEcoming-CELEBRATION

JULY  
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8  
1934

MATTOON, ILLINOIS

June 15th, 1934

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John McNutt, Chairman  
John W. Gibler, Vice Chairman  
E. A. Purcell, Treasurer  
David J. Twomey, Secretary

#### DIRECTORS

Frank J. Ritter  
E. Leo Smith  
Jesse D. Andrews  
W. B. Hamel  
R. A. Lumpkin  
Gus Schlicher  
L. G. Bartelsmeyer  
J. E. Heiman  
H. R. Checkley  
W. G. Sawin

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Walter Cox  
Coronation of Queen  
W. E. Orndorff  
Transportation Day  
J. E. Bleakley  
Business Interests  
Guarantee Fund  
G. H. Cokendolpher

Dr. Louis A. Warren  
Historical Research Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Warren:

We are getting along splendidly with arranging for our Lincoln Exhibit and can give you as much wall space as you can use. Will appreciate it if you will write me, telling me about the material you are sending and when it will be on hand.

The Lincoln Exhibit will be open during the entire week of July 1st to 8th.

As I wrote you before, July 6th will be Lincoln Day. Governor Horner and Mrs. Gridley and Mr. Fay will be on hand. If you can be with us, would like to have you participate in the morning program at the Lincoln Exhibit from 10 to 12.

Looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you on Lincoln Day, July 6th, and awaiting word from you,  
I remain

Yours very truly,



HRC:S

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO ROOM 313 LUMPKIN BUILDING



# MANY RELICS OF LINCOLN TO BE EXHIBITED

## To Be Housed in Suitable Room During Home-Coming.

The Abraham Lincoln Association of Springfield has promised a loan of hundreds of Lincoln pictures and Lincoln relics for exhibition in this city during Mattoon's 80th Anniversary Home-Coming Celebration, July 1-8. Legionnaires and Boy Scouts of the highest rank will be sent to Springfield after them.

The exhibit will be housed in a suitable uptown business room, where it will be available to all visitors. In connection with the borrowed articles of the exhibit, the local Lincoln Committee will provide a large map, 10 by 12 feet in size, showing Coles county Lincoln shrines, and directions as to how to reach them. The local committee will also show a map of the trip made by the Lincoln family from its early home in Kentucky to its final destination in Illinois.

### To Prepare Pamphlet.

W. F. Cavins of Mattoon, known as a Lincoln enthusiast and student, has agreed to prepare a local article on Lincoln and the Lincoln family which is to be printed in pamphlet form. This article will be given free to visitors at the Lincoln exhibit.

The promise of the loan from the Lincoln Association was obtained through the efforts of a sub-committee of the home-coming Lincoln Day program committee, composed of H. R. Checkley, Dr. O. W. Ferguson and Mr. Cavins, who made a special trip to Springfield to confer with officials of that organization.

The committee met and held a conference with W. H. Fay, keeper of the Lincoln tomb and its wealth of pictures and relics.

"Mr. Fay congratulated us on our plan to have a Lincoln Day during our home-coming celebration," said Mr. Checkley, "showing great enthusiasm. He not only promised to provide us with an exhibit of hundreds of pictures and relics, but offered to accompany other Springfield Lincoln enthusiasts to Mattoon on Lincoln Day. Mr. Fay has been in charge of the Lincoln tomb for 30 years or more and seldom can be induced to leave his post, either day or night. We were told that we were fortunate in having him volunteer to pay us a visit on this occasion."

Ben Thomas is paid secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association and spends all his time obtaining and writing Lincoln history. He and Mr. Fay are accredited with being among today's best authorities on Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln family. Mr. Fay, in selecting the pictures and relics to be sent to Mattoon, will include everything available pertaining to Coles county history of the Lincoln family.

June 26, 1934

Mr. H. R. Checkley  
Mattoon, Illinois

My dear Mr. Checkley:

The last of the week you will receive from our Foundation fifty pictures 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 11 or a little larger, twenty-five of them reproductions of originals of Lincoln and twenty-five of them reproductions of well known Lincoln statues. This will give you some idea of the space needed and we will be very glad to loan them for the period of your celebration.

Very sincerely yours,

Director

LAW:AAM

# MATTOON'S 80th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING-CELEBRATION



JULY  
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8  
1934

MATTOON, ILLINOIS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

June 27, 1934

John McNutt, Chairman  
John W. Gibler, Vice Chairman  
E. A. Purcell, Treasurer  
David J. Twomey, Secretary

## DIRECTORS

Frank J. Ritter  
E. Leo Smith  
Jesse D. Andrews  
W. B. Hamel  
R. A. Lumpkin  
Gus Schlicher  
L. G. Bartelsmeyer  
J. E. Heiman  
H. R. Checkley  
W. G. Sawin

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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W. E. Orndorff  
Transportation Day  
J. E. Bleakley  
Business Interests  
Guarantee Fund  
G. H. Cokendolpher

The Executive Committee of MATTOON'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING requests the pleasure of your presence at a luncheon to be given in honor of Governor Horner and the Illinois Lincoln Group, on Friday, July 6, 1934, at 12 o'clock, at the U. S. Grant Hotel. Please make reservation as early as possible.

You are also cordially invited to attend the other Homecoming activities on Friday, which has been designated "Lincoln Day". Governor Horner, widely known as a Lincoln scholar, will deliver the feature address of the day at 2 o'clock at the HOMECOMING celebration grounds.

Luncheon Tickets 75¢

H. R. CHECKLEY

Chairman Lincoln Day Committee

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO ROOM 313 LUMPKIN BUILDING



July 2, 1934

Mr. H. R. Checkley  
Box 28  
Mattoon, Illinois

My dear Mr. Checkley:

Saturday we shipped you by parcel post  
the Lincoln portraits for your exhibit which we hope  
you have received in good condition.

Will you kindly return them to us when  
the exhibit is over.

Very sincerely,

LAW/H

Director

**MORACE R. CHECKLEY**  
**INSURANCE - REAL ESTATE**

MATTOON, ILLINOIS

July 3, 1934

Mr. Louis W. Martin, Director  
Lincoln National Life Insurance  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Mr. Martin:  
Mr. H. R. Checkley  
Mattoon, Illinois

My dear Mr. Checkley:

Thank you very much for the  
booklet which we are glad to have.

We trust the collection of  
Lincoln pictures reached you safely.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW/H

Director

P.S. I am enclosing with this letter a few of our Lincoln  
National. I am sure you will find them of interest,  
and I like to have your comments on them.

11

**HORACE R. CHECKLEY**  
**INSURANCE - REAL ESTATE**

107 SOUTH 17TH ST.  
GROUND FLOOR

ESTABLISHED 1913

TELEPHONE 427

**MATTOON, ILLINOIS**

July 9th, 1934

Mr. Louis A. Warren, Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Mr. Warren:

We are returning today the Lincoln portraits sent us for our exhibit.

I wish to thank you for the portraits. They formed a good part of our Lincoln exhibit and our Committee was very glad to have them.

If anytime you are going through this way, I would like to have you call on me.

Cordially yours,



HRC:S

12  
P.S. I am enclosing with the pictures a few of our Lincoln booklets. I am sure Mr. W. F. Cavins, author of the booklet, would like to have your comments on same.

*W. F. Cavins*



MECHANICSBURG SPEAKER.

Lincoln spoke at an evening meeting in Mechanicsburg Nov. 4, 1859, charging the Democratic party with responsibility for the agitation now disturbing the country and predicting that wrangling over slavery will not cease until that party was broken. The State Journal of that day reported his address was received with "absorbed attention and earnest enthusiasm."

July 17, 1934

Mr. W. F. Cavins  
Mattoon, Ill.

My dear Mr. Cavins:

Through the kindness of Mr. Checkley we have received some copies of the book you prepared, "The Lincoln Family in Coles County."

It has brought together much data, which we are very glad to have.

Possibly you might like to receive a bulletin which this Foundation issues from week to week and we are placing your name on our mailing list, as this is sent gratis to those who are interested in Lincoln.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:EB

Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation

**Mechanicsburg Speaker.**

Lincoln spoke at an evening meeting in Mechanicsburg Nov. 4, 1859, charging the Democratic party with responsibility for the agitation now disturbing the country and predicting that wrangling over slavery will not cease until that party was broken. The State Journal of that day reported his address was received with "absorbed attention and earnest enthusiasm."

6/30/30  
State Journal



# LINCOLN NEWSLETTER



VOLUME III, NUMBER II

LINCOLN, ILLINOIS

MAY, 1982

## MIDDLETOWN'S LINCOLN CONNECTION

by Paul Beaver

This Memorial Day weekend the community of Middletown, in Logan County, Illinois, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding. The four-day celebration has a special meaning to me, a graduate of Middletown High School in the 1950's. As my school friends from those days would readily attest, my quest for knowledge of Abraham Lincoln's involvement with the oldest community in Logan County was far surpassed by a quest for athletic accomplishment as a member of the "Comets."

Now over a quarter of a Century later, many of those same friends have done me the honor of asking me to present our community's unique history at the opening of the celebration.

Middletown's history is tied to the stagecoach routes that crossed the Prairie State. One of the north-south routes ran from Peoria to Springfield and Jacksonville. In the summer of 1832, the town of Middletown was laid out "midway" between the latter two cities and Peoria. Appropriately enough, the new community was named Middletown in acknowledgement of its location on the stagecoach route. Stages stopped at the two story Stagecoach Inn that stood on the square. (The building still exists. It was moved from the square to a site approximately 2 miles north of town.)

On November 1, 1832 the first sale of lots took place. On June 4, 1833 Abraham Lincoln and John A. Kelso witnessed a deed for Hiram S. Allen

to Hawkings Taylor for two lots in Middletown.

On February 25, 1834, Lincoln drew up a petition to the commissioners court of Sangamon County (Logan was still part of Sangamon County), asking them to "appoint viewers to view and locate a road from Musick's Ferry (north of Middletown) on Salt Creek via New Salem, to the county line in direction of Jacksonville." On March 3, Lincoln was appointed surveyor for this road. He started the survey at Musick's Ferry and this was probably the first time Lincoln was in Logan County.

In 1834, while a member of the State Legislature in Vandalia, Lincoln introduced a bill to authorize Samuel Musick to build a toll bridge over Salt Creek. Later on, he represented the Musick heirs in a lawsuit and was the court appointed guardian of the infant Musick heirs.

Lincoln's more direct involvement with Middletown lessened after this period, but Middletown citizens continued to play a role in Lincoln's life. When the town of Lincoln was founded in the summer of 1853, Dr. John C. Patterson of Middletown was one of those who witnessed Lincoln's christening of Lincoln with watermelon juice.

Colby Knapp, a member of the Illinois State Legislature and a Middletown native, introduced a bill in the legislature calling for a vote in Logan County to allow the citizens of the county to move the county seat from Mt. Pulaski to the new town of Lincoln. This bill was probably

introduced on Lincoln's request.

On August 8, 1860, the Illinois Republicans held a gigantic rally to celebrate Lincoln's nomination. Thousands of Lincoln's supporters from all over Central Illinois attended. The day started with a parade with floats, constructed in the small towns surrounding Springfield. One of these floats was from Middletown. This float featured an American flag constructed by the ladies of the community. After the parade had finished, the float was taken to a local livery stable. About this time a group came from the fairgrounds where the rally was in progress. Calls from the audience to have Lincoln speak became so incessant, that a group came to the livery stable to get a buggy to bring Lincoln to the fairgrounds. Upon seeing the flag, they asked to use it on the buggy. Their request was granted and Lincoln was to ride into the immense throng seated on the flag which was draped over the seat of the buggy. (Rules governing flag usage were not yet in effect.) The flag is now a part of the Lincoln Museum's collection.

With the coming of the Civil War many young men from Middletown would answer Lincoln's call for troops, and at war's end came Lincoln's tragic death. His body was returned to his native state in May, 1865. Citizens from Middletown, like thousands of their Central Illinois neighbors, paid their final respects to their friend of three decades.

—Continued on following page.





LINCOLN COLLEGE  
Lincoln, Illinois 62656

Acting President ..... Sam Redding  
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Robert Edwards ..... Ralph G. Newman  
Brooks Davis ..... Louise Lutz  
Paul J. Beaver ..... Editor & Curator  
of the Lincoln Museum  
Richard Sloan ..... Contributing Editor  
Lynn Spellman ..... Editorial Consultant

### "MIDDLETOWN'S LINCOLN CONNECTION" — concluded —

Lincoln would become one of the world's immortals while life in Middletown continued much in the ways it had always been. No railroad or superhighway would give her a stimulus to grow or change.

And so 150 years after Lincoln first knew her dusty streets, she remains nearly the same in size as Lincoln would have known.

Some prairie towns that had similar births may be likened to the freshets of water running from the fields in spring—growing first into prairie creeks and finally into mighty rivers. With Middletown, those same freshets became a placid flowing timber stream, softly moving through the seasons of many of our lives.



THE LINCOLN ROOM — The Way It Was —  
1942-1969

## Hickey Meets the President

James T. Hickey, curator of the Lincoln Collection for the Illinois State Historical Library and chairman of the Heritage Committee for the Lincoln College Board of Trustees, was one of a group of 20 individuals involved in the restoration of the Reagan family home in Dixon, Illinois, who met with the President and Mrs. Reagan on May 9 in Peoria.

The private reception was arranged by Dave Fischer, special assistant to the President. The meeting, scheduled for 15 minutes, lasted over an hour as plans were discussed for the restoration of the Dixon residence. The work will be privately funded.

Many of the Reagan family items were burned in a fire after President Reagan's parents moved to California.

Hickey reported that the President told him, "If you want to make the old barn out in back really authentic, put up some wire cages with rabbits in them as I did."

### "Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King: A Parallel"

Stephen B. Oates, Professor of History and Adjunct Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, delivered the above titled lecture at the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana on May 20.

Dr. Mark Neely, current head of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library, headed up this annual lecture which is named in honor of former director R. Gerald McMurtry.

### Al Banton Retires

Al Banton, popular superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, announced his retirement from that post effective April 21.

Al began his 35 year National Park Service career in 1947 at the Colonial

National Historical Park, which had charge of Jamestown and Yorktown (Virginia).

Banton took the Springfield post in 1972 and will continue to reside in the Capitol City. Al noted that he was "re-employed" the day after his retirement to write the legislative and administrative history of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

**RICHARD HANSER DIES**—Richard Hanser, Emmy award-winning television writer, died December 7th, 1981, in Mamaroneck, NY. He was 71 years old, and had been a script-writer with NBC for twenty years. It is ironic that he passed away on the date the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, for Mr. Hanser was an expert on the Second World War, having served the Government in the 1940's in its psychological warfare unit, and then co-authoring the two most famous TV documentaries on the war—"Victory at Sea," and "The Twisted Cross." He also authored two books on Nazi Germany. However, Lincoln students should remember him as one of their own, for having written the **finest** of all Lincoln television programs "Meet Mr. Lincoln." This was produced for NBC by Hanser's long-time associate, Donald B. Hyatt, as part of the network's famed "Project XX" series. "Meet Mr. Lincoln" was originally broadcast February 11, 1959, and then for the next two years. The program related Lincoln's timely arrival on the national scene, the tragic days of the Civil War, and the assassination. The unique film utilized thousands of old photos, woodcuts, painting, etc., which were dramatically edited together, with artistic camera treatment (pans, zooms, etc.) to create a three-dimensional feeling, and were then blended together with music by Robert Russell Bennett (who passed away last year) and Mr. Hanser's poetic script (narrated by Alexander Scourby). The result was, as the *N. Y. Herald Tribune* called it, "a television masterpiece." The project was successfully converted to the printed page, with Hanser's script and 132 pictures from the film. (Copies are occasionally still available in out-of-print bookstores.) Mr. Hanser, who won a number of awards, including the coveted Robert E. Sherwood award for "Meet Mr. Lincoln," also wrote the script for 1971 updated "You Are There at the



Nomination of Abraham Lincoln" produced by CBS News, and a marvelous essay, "Lincoln and the Poets," which appears in G. P. Putnam's *Abraham Lincoln—A New Portrait*, edited by Henry Kranz (1959). However, "Meet Mr. Lincoln" is his legacy to us. The film is available on loan from the University of Illinois Visual Service at Champaign, and as an RCA videodisc.

(Richard Sloan)

**WHAT A NEIGHBORHOOD!** A cousin of Dr. Richard D. Mudd from Pueblo, Colorado, has written us the following: "My son, Gregg (Mudd) recently lived in Leadville, up in the high mountain country of Colorado. He works at the Climax Mine. One of his fellow-workers is Neil Booth. The last name of another co-worker at the mine is Wilkes, who lives on Assassination Street. (A family named Lincoln used to live there, too.) Occasionally, Wilkes, Booth, and Mudd used to get together socially at Wilkes' house.

**A TRUE LINCOLN COLLECTOR** — Pennies are in short supply so the east-coast bank in Pompano Beach, Florida offered a premium for them. They didn't expect 52-year old George King to show up with his van containing 27 thousand pennies! The bank gave him 300 Susan B. Anthony dollars in exchange. George still has 48,773 **more** pennies at home! He's been collecting them since he was ten years old. You see, George is rather tall, wears a beard, and folks say he even looks like — you guessed it —. (Richard Sloan)

**LINCOLN GROUP ACTIVITIES**—The Civil War Round Table of New York presented its 1982 Benjamin Barondess Lincoln award to LaWanda Cox, for her book, *Lincoln and Black Freedom — A Study in Presidential Leadership*. The award has been given annually since 1962, in memory of the late Benjamin Barondess, a Lincoln scholar and charter member of the Round Table. Mrs. Cox's book (published by the University of South Carolina Press) addresses the question of whether Lincoln "led or did he lag?" as many thought, in respect to black freedom. Mrs. Cox is Professor Emeritus at the History Department of Hunter College in New York City. The award was presented February 10, at the Round Table's Lincoln Birthday meeting.

**THE LINCOLN GROUP OF NEW YORK** met February 25th to hear Professor Gabor Boritt of the History Department at Gettysburg College speak on the subject, "Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream." Professor Boritt published a book on this subject in 1978. The group also viewed an abridged version of a rare 1924 silent film "The Dramatic Life of Abraham Lincoln," starring George Billings as Lincoln. The film comes from the private collection of one of the members. At its May 6th meeting, Professor Hans Trefousse of the History Department at Brooklyn College spoke on the subject of his new book, *Lincoln and Carl Schurz* (published by the University of Tennessee). Joan Chaconas, former President of the Surratt Society, presented her slide talk on the Government's own collection of Lincoln relics, stored at the National Park Service vaults in Washington, D. C.

**THE LINCOLN GROUP OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**, under its new President, Ed Steers, held its annual Lincoln dinner February 11, and listened to Lloyd Ostendorf speak on "The Magnetism of Lincoln." Dr. Wilson Pindell spoke at their March 16th meeting, on "Lincoln: Man of Conscience and of Controversy." E. E. "Josh" Billings spoke on "The Presidential Election of 1860" at the April 20 meeting.

On February 14th, Rev. Dr. John C. McCollister addressed the LINCOLN COMMISSION at their annual Lincoln Day observance, in the historic New York Avenue Presbyterian Church where the Lincolns worshipped. Special music was presented by the U. S. Marine Band Chamber Orchestra.

**THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION**, founded on the day Lincoln died, held their annual luncheon following the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial on February 12th. Dr. Mark Neely, Director of the Louis Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, spoke to the LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL SHRINE in Redland, California February 12. His subject — "Working with Lincoln": lively and humorous observations about Lincoln and 19th century political intrigues. The occasion also marked the 50th anniversary

of the founding of the Shrine. Two hundred and seventy people attended.

As reported in the last issue of this *Newsletter*, the 9th annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium in Springfield presented thought-provoking talks by Don Fehrenbacher, Thomas Turner, and Constance Head, on aspects of the Lincoln assassination.

Dick Gutman also presented his updated multi-projector slide show on the assassination. THE LINCOLN GROUP OF BOSTON viewed Gutman's slide show on April 10th, and heard Dr. John Lattimer (of the New York Lincoln Group) speak on comparisons between the Lincoln and Kennedy assassinations, which is the subject of his recent book.

**THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION** April 18th meeting featured Professor Ronald Reitveld's talk on "The Lincoln Assassination Controversy." (In the early 1950's, Reitveld was the fifteen-year-old boy who discovered the photo of Lincoln lying in his coffin in New York's City Hall, while sifting through the Nicolay — Hay papers at the Illinois State Historical Society.)

New York celebrated Lincoln's birthday in sight and sound this year. Aaron Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait" was presented by the Bronx Symphony Orchestra at the Lehman College on February 20th. College president Dr. Leonard Lief narrated. At the Levitan Gallery in Manhattan, artist Chuck Levitan exhibited twelve 10' by 6' abstracts as well as traditional styled Lincoln portraits he painted.

(Richard Sloan)

**NEW BOOKS AND ARTICLES** — Professor Charles Strozier, of the History Department at Sangamon State University, has written a new book just published by Basic Books in New York. It deals with the personal side of Lincoln's life and career, his relationships with his parents, wife, children, etc. The title — *Lincoln's Quest for Union: Public and Private Meanings*. Dwight Anderson has authored another Lincoln book with a similar title — *Lincoln's Quest for Immortality*, published by Alfred Knopf in New York. An abridged version of Douglas Southall Freeman's four-volume Pulitzer Prize winning biography of Robert E. Lee, entitled, *Lee*, has just been published as a handsome one-volume paperback (600 pages) by Scribner and



Sons at \$17.50. The book was originally published in 1935. (Freeman also won a Pulitzer for a seven-volume biography of George Washington.)

Pep Martin of Pasadena, Maryland, will shortly see his article on Lincoln conspirator Samuel B. Arnold published in an issue of the Baltimore County Historical Society's *History Trails* magazine.

Professor Joseph George's eagerly-awaited article on Louis Weichmann and Mary Surratt will be appearing in a forthcoming issue of *Civil War History Magazine*. It promises to be quite a revealing expose on the man whose status as a conspirator was changed to that of Government witness.

Harold Holzer's article in the February 10th *Antique Trader Weekly* was authoritative on the subject of cartes-de-visite of President Lincoln.

Dr. John Lattimer's eight-page illustrated article, *Who Shot J. W. B.?* was featured in Navy Arms 1982 Muzzleloaders' Annual Magazine, published in Ridgefield, NJ by Great American Advertising, Inc. BOSTON AUCTION HELD — Speaking of Lincoln cartes-de-visite, a rare **autographed** example sold for \$4,750 at the March 11th auction conducted by Daniel Kelleher Company in Boston. One hundred and sixteen Lincoln letters and documents passed the auctioneer's gavel, most of them selling from \$1,000 to \$2,000 each.

**DON'T BE FOOLED BY IMITATIONS!** — One of the most-produced newspapers continues to be the *New York Herald* reporting on Lincoln's assassination. The original issues were printed on paper with a high rag content, and would never turn brown or flake apart from old age. Copies reprinted in the 1890's have fooled many a novice. Beware!! A gentleman in DeLand, Florida thought he had the genuine article, and tried to sell it to us, claiming that a neighbor had once sold a copy for \$5,000. The scam didn't work, as a snapshot easily revealed the newspaper to us as one of the worthless copies. Check the backs for advertisements, dates, and don't be "taken!"

(Richard Sloan)

**THE LINCOLN THEME IN THE THEATRE** — Mary Lincoln is the subject of Doris Porter's new three-act play *Without Discretion* which focuses on Mrs. Lincoln's sanity trial, with flashbacks to her early days in Springfield. It has been performed at Miss Porter's Alma Mater, North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. Several organizations (and cable TV) are considering producing and publishing it.

Herbert Mitgan's recent one-man play, *Mr. Lincoln*, has just been published as a handsome hardcover book by the University of Southern Illinois in Carbondale. A reading of Robert Morse's new play *Booth* was presented at the Manhattan Theatre Club on January 20th. Characters include: Wilkes Booth, Edwin and Junius Booth, John Mathews, John McCulloch, Harry Hawk, and Laura Keene.

"Carl Sandburg — Echoes and Silences," by Paul Shyre, appeared over Educational TV in February and March, and starred John Cullum as Sandburg. (Playwright Shyre once penned a controversial play about Lincoln's assassination, entitled "The President Is Dead!")

We were recently privileged to spend a few minutes with Academy Award-winning actor Jack Lemmon in a New York television studio. We mentioned his 1956 appearance on television in the dramatization of Jim Bishop's *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*. (He portrayed Booth to Raymond Massey's Lincoln.) He recalled for us that on the day of dress rehearsal, he actually sprained his ankle in re-enacting Booth's "leap" to the stage from the Presidential box. He was amused to learn from us that actor Raoul Walsh had similarly injured himself in re-enacting the assassination scene in the 1915 silent film, *Birth of a Nation*.

We also recently heard from famed actress Lillian Gish who played Mary Lincoln in the show with Mr. Lemmon and Mr. Massey, and was also featured in "Birth of a Nation"! She writes in a letter to us, "I, too, share your admiration in this great man, Abraham Lincoln."

Twenty-six year old actor-writer Clint Case of California returned to Maryland again to soak up some more atmosphere for his upcoming one-man play, "An evening with John Wilkes Booth." He visited Ford's Theatre, the Petersen

House, the scene of the Lincoln conspiracy trial (gaining entrance to the room where the trial was conducted), the Surratt tavern, the nearly-restored Dr. Mudd house, and Deer Creek Park in Bel Air, Md., where Booth and friends often came as young boys. The name "Booth" is chiselled on one of the boulders, a discovery made over 40 years ago by Booth family biographer Stanley Kimmel. Clint also slept in John Wilkes Booth's bedroom at Tudor Hall, and had dinner with a few local history buffs. Plans are now developing for him to debut his one-man play on the front lawn of Tudor Hall, some time in mid-September, and to tour the country with it. Case said the show is not an attempt to glorify Booth, but is an historically authentic examination of a "rash fanatic." "He was a fascinating person," he said of Booth. "He had that blend of charm and bouts of ferocity," and quickly points out that his act was a "heinous" one.

(Richard Sloan)

**SPEAKING OF BOOTH** — The Surratt Society conducted another successful tour of the Booth escape route on April 10 with 45 persons aboard. The next tour, the fourteenth thus far sponsored by the society, takes place September 18th.

Just a few weeks after the Surratt Society retraced, for the first time, conspirator George Atzerodt's escape route from Washington to his cousin's house, the house was gutted by fire. It now stands deserted, in Germantown, Md. Photos taken by participants of the tour are all that remain now of this historic structure.

Joan Chaconas, former Surratt Society President, is currently working on a tour for the Smithsonian Institution in May or June called, "Washington as Lincoln Knew It." She is also working on plans for a "Musical Salute to Lincoln," to be performed in Washington, D. C. The Lincoln Group of New York is working on a similar project (partly inspired by Mrs. Chaconas) for presentation in the Great Hall of Cooper Union, where Lincoln gave his famous COOPER UNION ADDRESS. Featured performers for the New York program would be the New Hutchinson Family Singers, led by Professor James Hurt of the English Department at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

(Richard Sloan)

# WYATT EARP BIRTHPLACE

12  
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O.K. Corral Lawman  
U.S. Deputy Marshal

**MONMOUTH, ILLINOIS**  
**Warren County**

I-74 to Rts. 34, 67, 164

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## WYATT BERRY STAPP EARP

1848 - 1929

United States Deputy Marshal



Wyatt Earp was born in Monmouth, Illinois, on March 19, 1848, at 406 South Third Street. Wyatt's mother, Virginia, was at his aunt's home when Wyatt was born. His father, Nicholas, had been injured in the Mexican War, and there were four other young children in the family. Wyatt Berry Stapp Earp was given the name of his father's Army captain.

The Earp family home at 125 North First Street was bought for \$450 in 1845, and was sold in 1849. Wyatt's father was a cooper (barrel maker), and Wyatt's grandfather was a justice of the peace in Monmouth. After selling the family properties (including the east side of the 200 block of North First Street), the family lived in the birthplace rental home, until they left for the California gold rush in 1850. They got as far as Pella, Iowa, where another uncle lived.

In 1856, the family returned to Monmouth, where Wyatt attended the first free public school here. They lived at 409 South B Street, and had farm land in the 300 block of South A Street. Wyatt's father helped organize the Republican party in Monmouth, and there were four Earps on the Monmouth Legislature. In January of 1859, the family bought the entire west side of the 100 block of North Fifth Street.

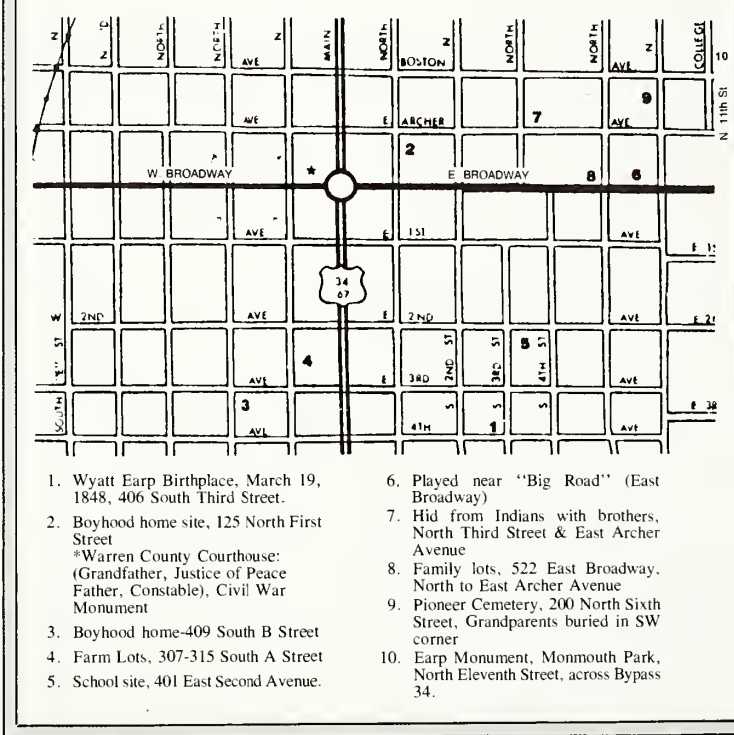
By the end of 1859, Wyatt's family returned to Pella, Iowa, to farm. When the Civil War broke out, Wyatt helped hoe the corn, while his father served as provost marshal, and his older brothers returned to Monmouth to join the army. Wyatt also tried to join the army in Iowa at age 14.

The family moved by wagon train to California in 1864, where Wyatt became a stagecoach driver, when he was 17. They returned to Lamar, Missouri in 1868, and on to Monmouth for a year's visit with relatives. Wyatt's picture was taken in Monmouth in 1869.

Back in Missouri, Wyatt was married in 1870 in Lamar by his father, now a justice of the peace. Wyatt's wife, Urilla, and their baby died during childbirth.

Wyatt became a lawman in Dodge City and Wichita, Kansas, before moving to Tombstone, Arizona, where he and his brothers, Virgil and Morgan, took part in the gunfight near the O.K. Corral, along with Doc Holliday.

Virgil and Wyatt Earp were deputy U.S. Marshals, and they were highly respected by the good citizens of Tombstone. At a hearing following the gunfight, the judge stated that the Earp posse "had preserved



- Wyatt Earp Birthplace, March 19, 1848, 406 South Third Street.
- Boyhood home site, 125 North First Street  
\*Warren County Courthouse: (Grandfather, Justice of Peace Father, Constable), Civil War Monument
- Boyhood home-409 South B Street
- Farm Lots, 307-315 South A Street
- School site, 401 East Second Avenue.
- Played near "Big Road" (East Broadway)
- Hid from Indians with brothers, North Third Street & East Archer Avenue
- Family lots, 522 East Broadway, North to East Archer Avenue
- Pioneer Cemetery, 200 North Sixth Street, Grandparents buried in SW corner
- Earp Monument, Monmouth Park, North Eleventh Street, across Bypass 34.

the peace" near the O.K. Corral. Wyatt was a lawman for about five of his eighty years. He turned down a U.S. Marshal's position; Wyatt was mainly a businessman.

Wyatt died on January 13, 1929, in Los Angeles, and was buried in Colma, California, at the age of 80. Earp's second wife, Celia (Mattie), died in 1888. His

third wife, Josephine (Sadie), survived him. Tom Mix was one of his pallbearers.

Earp was persuaded to write his autobiography, which he did in a series of lectures for the Historical Society of Arizona. Earp was a reserved and silent man. Now, Wyatt Earp's life and legend live on. Long may his story be told!



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## **ANNUAL EVENTS**

**O.K. Corral Reenactment\***

Birthday . . . . . Third Saturday in March

Homecoming . . . First Weekend in August\*

Prime Beef . . . Weekend after Labor Day\*

O.K. Corral . . . Third Saturday in October

Christmas . . . . . First Sunday in December

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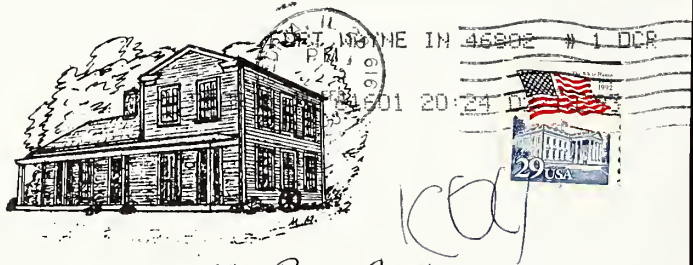
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Monmouth, Illinois 61462



Non-Profit Museum and Gift Shop



Attn: Ruth Cook  
The Lincoln Museum  
1300 S. Clinton St.  
P.O. Box 1110  
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Monticello, Ill.

Monticello, Illinois,  
January 21, 1931.

Lincoln Lore,  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Subject:  
Abraham Lincoln locational data  
neglected in Central Illinois.

Dear Friends:

This is a Lincoln town, County seat of Piatt County. On the west side of the Court House square is a marker; to the north and south of it are two trees at least that must have been here since the circuit-riding days. Other trees have been cut down in the square; these might be, unless they be marked for preservation.

My wife is the busiest physician here; a strictest Homeopathist. We own an old warehouse built with the bricks of the Circuit Riding Court House bricks. A former Postmaster here, Mr. Moffett, has original drawings of it; so far as I now know, it stood near one of the above old trees, toward the s.w. corner of the square - where a large cannon now stands. I should think that a reduced size replica of that Lincoln Court House should be rebuilt there with the original bricks, as far more appropriate than a Spanish - American War cannon. Although it has not been found that Lincoln practiced any law there, he came never-the-less with the Court, and is reported to have boarded when here with a storekeeper named Rhodes.

South of our town two miles is the Lincoln-Douglas bad-appearing stucco marker, a meaninglessly shaped pyramid, commemorating their accidental meeting, when it was arranged to meet at Bryant's house 5 miles south in Bement that night and contract for the debates. This marker is on Ill.Rt.10, one of the main highways across the United States, and the direct line from Illinois University to Decatur and Springfield. Thousands yearly miss the purport of that marker, placed as it is, with the single tablet facing the fast-travelled road. Its wrong, I think, not to have a statue there.



The Bryant House is kept in good shape for visitors, and is but a few steps from Rt.10, where travel is slow. It is people from distant States, usually, who would be the more interested in visiting Lincoln sites. The apathy of local people hereabouts is seen in the neglect of the sites, and the perpetuation of the errors regarding them; and similar outrages that I have just come upon during last week. *years ago I decided to wait until experienced enough to read Lincoln details. And now, what do I find!*

Sandburg's work, published so recently as 1926, has a picture of an ox yoke opposite page 33, with this: " - helped haul the Lincoln family across the Wabash to the new prairie home in Illinois in 1831." Opposite page 144 the Hill-McNamar store at New Salem is shown as the McNamar store, with no mention of Hill. The L.&B. store on that page is pictured correctly; but opposite page 177 that same store, another view, is shown as the Offut store. On the same page the Offut store is shown as being the Hill store! It is a wonder to me that these historians even got his birth date right; and I wrote so today to the Decatur Herald.

A new book has just come out at Decatur, correcting some long-standing mistakes, and starting others on its own account. Price, notwithstanding, \$2.50. What the Decatur locality can have meant all these years in having the boulder-marker (D.A.R.) of the first Lincoln home in the wrong place, is beyond me. But there it stays, on the wrong farm, reached only after driving through two gates  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile apart, over a lane unfit for auto travel - with an iron pipe-end exposed suddenly that must be turned out for, or ruin two tires - and when you get there, and look fondly at the first Illinois home site, you are not looking at it at all. And, ridiculously, the correct site is also marked - by a little 50¢ sign on a stick, on the next farm, some hundreds of yards from the misplaced marker.

When you get in to the wrong place, they do not tell you that it is wrong - but think "it ought to be made into a park." If anyone should happen to know that the correct spot is further down southwest, nearer the river, it would be necessary to climb fences to get to it; and that owner over there might drive anyone off, from what I have heard. It may be that he "doesn't want to be bothered with sight-seers;" but the people of the United States want Lincoln preserved, so far as thus can be accomplished - or they would not erect such monuments as are now at Washington and at Hodgenville. Here, at the original Illinois home-site, there is but a little stick-sign - instead of at least a restored cabin, of which there are authenticated photographs in the museum collections. And there is the Warnick location southeast; and the Hanks location northeast - but there is not an indication on our national highway, Route 10, between Decatur and Springfield to indicate that Lincoln was ever so much as even there. To me all this is an utter outrage against American historical decency.

Now let's jump 50 miles northwest to New Salem. The only "New Salem" shown on Illinois maps is in Pike County, 50 miles further west - where there is no telling how many hundreds of school-teachers, and other innocents, have gone by mistake, only to give up hunting Lincoln Country, (and go to the movies for consolation.) When you get to Petersburg, there is no sign of New Salem, or Restored New Salem; at the south end of town you accidentally run into signs directing to Old Salem - which, of course, when you get there, turns out to be Lincoln's New Salem; a town name that should have been preserved to commemorate America's most beloved citizen forever, and which Pike County, it seems to me, should have known.

What, if anything, can be done to correct these things?

Very truly yours,

Chas. A. Swanner

Monticello, Ill.  
January 23, 1931.

Lincoln Lore,  
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Subject:  
\$10,000. of Illinois funds  
for Wakefield (which one?) Va.

Dear Sirs:

Just now I have written to Governor Emmerson at Springfield reminding him of an item on front page of yesterday's Pantagraph of Bloomington, advising that the Daughters of 1812 are to send him a resolution requesting that the Illinois Legislature grant \$10,000. for a "Lincoln Hall" in the restored home of George Washington at Wakefield (there are two Wakefield's in Virginia!) Va.

I attached a copy, same as herewith enclosed, of my letter appearing in this morning's Decatur Herald - and respectfully protested that Illinois money is required for restorations in Lincoln's Illinois country - especially the first cabin built by himself and father down on the Sangamon west of Decatur.

You will, I am sure, wish to know of the above.

Very truly yours,

*Chas. A. Furranee*



January 24, 1931

Mr. Chas. A. Severance  
Monticello, Illinois

My dear Mr. Severance:

Your very interesting letter has been carefully read and I can appreciate your attitude because I experienced the same situation in Kentucky while residing there in the birth place of Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, President of the Illinois State Historical Society, is very anxious to do the very thing you are suggesting, that is, to verify and mark historical places. With your permission I shall forward him the letter you have written to me and I believe you would more likely be able to get action from him than from any one else I know.

Perhaps you would prefer to write him yourself and if so, I will hold up this letter and give you his address, which is Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, 38 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Thanking you again for your interesting letter, I am

Respectfully yours,

Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:LE



5.  
Monticello, Ill.  
January 26, 1931.

Mr. Louis A. Warren,  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Thank you for your letter just received. I shall be glad to have my letters referred to Dr. Schmidt as you suggest; but trust that that will mean some actual action. I note that your Memorial Bureau marks sites of historical significance associated with Lincoln, and perhaps you will therefore wish to cooperate with Dr. Schmidt, if his Society also wishes it, in having a restoration of the first Illinois Lincoln cabin placed at the correct site.

It happens, too, that my wife, Dr. Mary I. Senseman (maiden and professional name,) is an extremely busy physician - one of the very strictest known Hahnemannians in the world. She receives minute blood-specimens from distant physicians from every part of the country almost daily; and, strangely, more from great distances. Four years ago we began an automatic remedy-finding process, on the basis of radio-activity contacts, and for two years I was required to assist in the process. However, a year ago last December, I invented a part of the apparatus which permits the physician-operator to work alone upon the tests - leaving me with next to nothing to do. Last summer we built a summer-cottage on the west side of Lake Decatur, one block south of Route 10; and this would be handy for me in the following connection. I could remain there nights while working as a Lincoln Historical Guide - and go home to Monticello only on rainy days.

On Route 10, about 9 miles west of Decatur is the Shell Oil Co. pumping station, their pipe-line passing that point. There is a large gravelled yard, and everything extremely neat there; but no filling-station there. The south dirt road bordering their east end leads straight about 1 mile to the original cabin site - and at the latter point the road turns only to the west. A gate could be cut there in the fence for the public to drive in, and a turn-around road arranged inside.

It happens, too, that here in Monticello there is an original log cabin, moved from near the west park where Lincoln and Douglas held a debate at the time the debate arrangements were made at Bement, to the east part of town. Mr. McCune, who was born in this cabin, moved it into his new home yard. He died there suddenly last summer; and shortly before had said to me that I ought to buy this cabin and move it to the highway as a Lincoln attraction - souvenirs, information, etc. That is what set me to looking up these matters; and I must say that I have become stirred at the neglect of Lincoln matters throughout here, appreciative although I am for what has been done and endeavored for.

That McCune cabin, as a suggestion, could be taken apart and placed at the First Cabin Site, as it looks almost the same as the Gov. Oglesby authenticated pictures of the original. That

might be the least expensive way to get a cabin there; and Lincoln has often seen this self-same cabin, passing it on the circuit for years when travelling from Clinton to Monticello. Or, other logs might be procured for the restoration - and, incidentally, should they not be creosoted for preservation, as perhaps the restorations should be at New Salem?

Suppose that the Shell Oil Company would agree to have their filling-stations all through this country hand circular-maps to customers from outlying States, if they indicated interest in following through the Lincoln country to the sites of historical importance? The meeting place with me, for instance, as Guide, could be the pumping-station grounds just west of the Harristown turn on Route 10. The map-circulars, let us say, would be furnished by your Insurance Company; and the Shell Company would obtain good clean advertising by my meeting our pilgrims at their marked stations anywhere along the regular route. I would first lead them to the original cabin-site, then to the Warnick location, and other specified locations in that neighborhood; from there to the point on the Sangamon where the Offut boat was built north of Springfield, then to New Salem and to the Ann Rutledge grave. Returning, via another Lincoln route, perhaps the one he walked often through Athens, to the Tomb at the north of Springfield - then to the collection at the Centennial Building south of the State Capitol. Those who had started with me need follow no further, and those who had joined me at further west stations could return with me to the sites near Harristown, and at the end I could leave them at the good collection at Decatur Public Library.

I have a new Whippet Coupe; it should carry attachable signs for this purpose, that could be affixed by clasp-buttons. I am a rather good sign-painter, but was too expensive in that work for this locality, and did not follow it up much here. That ability, however, would assist in these connections. Also, I have had much experience as an advertising-man; have sold sign-service for moderately large shops, and solicited newspaper advertising, writing much of it myself. I will be 50 next month, the 21st - between, as you see, Washington and Lincoln.

Since the Historical Societies have done so little, and are doing nothing about a guide-system, I think that the above plan of backing the action with fair and good advertising is perhaps the only way that such action is apt to take place. The public, travelling this way from all over the United States (at least) can have nothing but thankfulness to any institutions who would so lead them; and, frankly, if I knew anyone better fitted for the guide work than myself, who would continually study to better the service to an ever more satisfactory degree, I would be but too glad to refer them. I will draw the maps for the cuts myself, if asked; and prepare the circular matter - for such revision as you might care to make. Communicate, if you wish, upon this with Mr. W. B. Markland, Advertising Manager, Shell Petroleum Products Co., Bloomington, Ill., to whom I spoke about it somewhat last week.

Very truly yours,

*Chas. A. Surranee*

(over)



February 10, 1931

Mr. Chas. A. Severance  
Monticello, Illinois

My dear Mr. Severance:

hypocrisy, laboring on the idea that New England slave  
 ships helped start the slavery that New England now  
 denounced. New England returned African children to  
 demons who sold their own people to rob in order to  
 England guns and gunpowder were the tools by which  
 colonial war and gained prisoners who became  
 New England profited at every stage of the process  
 profiting later from selling the slaves in the South, from  
 the tobacco taken in exchange for the slaves, and from  
 European manufacture bought with the tobacco  
 four profits: on guns and ammunition, on slave, on tobacco  
 the manufactures.

More extreme statements of the Democratic position than I found, and Lincoln would find and use them. I am only a partial and watchful listener. Statements which I agreed the Declaration of Independence for the sake of denying the natural equality of man. Although Lincoln certainly disagreed with what Wick said in points 4 and 5, I soon agreed with what he said in point 6. There were many areas of agreement as well, particularly in the view that "out of us" is no less moral than "Northness" and that emancipation should be gradual and self-helping, proper for civilization.

In the summer and autumn, farmers and agriculturists are particularly numerous where there is no permanent home in these districts and in the northern counties of the twentieth congressional District. Perhaps the most serious shots clear attack on the Soil in, has come from up to a mind proceed with this problem but it will seem to provide any information about the situation in the Illinois. It is now to keep "congressional" and "national" looking to the Free Soilers. The speech on the issue of **LAW** common ground of agreement between the Western of the Soil and Free Soilers, namely that the Democratic Party was not pledged in any way to stop the growth of slavery.

## 13<sup>7</sup> Conclusion

There are many other aspects of Lincoln's image and career which invite further exploration. It is likely, however, that they are unsatisfactorily explained by the two models outlined here. In many cases, they are fine points, but not ones that may add up to a rather different portrait of Lincoln in Lincoln.

I regret that your correspondence has reached us just at a time we are so very busy in preparing for our dedication which takes place this week.

It will not be possible for me to give your suggestions further consideration until along about the first of March as I have more than thirty speaking engagements this month and I am on the road most of the time.

I am filing your letter, however, and as soon as I can give it the attention it deserves, I will be glad to write you.

Respectfully yours,

Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation





**FIGURE 2.** Congressman Lincoln repeatedly stressed the heroic roles played by Whig officers in the Mexican War. A typical example was the death of Henry Clay's son at Buena Vista in 1847. This N. Currier lithograph (detail) was one of many which documented that event.

Courtesy Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

hypocrisy, elaborating on the idea that New England slave ships helped start the slavery that New England now denounced. New England rum turned African chieftans into demons who sold their own people to obtain more rum. New England guns and gunpowder were the tools by which Africans waged war and gained prisoners who became slaves. New England profited at every stage of the operation, profiting later from selling the slaves in the South, from selling the tobacco taken in exchange for the slaves, and from European manufactures bought with the tobacco. They made four profits: on guns and rum, on slaves, on tobacco, and on the manufactures.

More extreme statements of the Democratic position could be found, and Lincoln would find and use them in the 1850s, being particularly watchful for statements which denigrated the Declaration of Independence for the sake of denying the natural equality of men. Although Lincoln certainly disagreed with what Wick said in points 4 and 5 and, as a Whig, was indifferent to what he said in point 11, there were large areas of agreement as well, particularly in the views that Southerners were no less moral than Northerners and that emancipation should be gradual and should include plans for colonization.

In the summer and autumn, Lincoln would campaign for Taylor primarily in areas where Free Soil sentiment seemed strong, in Massachusetts and in the northern counties of his own Seventh Congressional District. Perhaps Wick's speech, with its clear attack on Free Soilism, had some special appeal to a mind preoccupied with this problem, but it hardly seems to provide any kind of solution that would interest Lincoln. His major concern was to keep "conscience" Whigs from bolting to the Free Soilers. This speech merely discussed the common ground of agreement between Whigs of Lincoln's type and Free Soilers; namely, that the Democratic party was not pledged in any way to stop the growth of slavery.

#### IV. Conclusion

There are many other aspects of Lincoln's congressional career which invite further exploration and analysis because they are unsatisfactorily explained or ignored by the existing literature. In many cases, they are fine points, but in the end they may add up to a rather different picture of Congressman Lincoln.

Researchers and manuscript dealers have been slow to realize the opportunity in this area. Although I have never seen a letter that was written to Congressman Lincoln, he received, by his own account, "more than . . . three hundred" letters in the last session of Congress alone. The glamor of the Civil War and the Presidency should not blind us to the merits of study and collecting in the area of Lincoln's formative Whig years.

### Autographed Debates: The Mulligan Copy

Interested readers have helped *Lincoln Lore's* continuing series of articles on the various presentation copies of the *Political Debates Between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas*. By writing us to describe their own copies, they have pinned down previously unlocated copies of the book.

A case in point is the Thomas Mulligan copy. When Harry Pratt wrote "Lincoln Autographed Debates" in *Manuscripts* in 1954, he had to list the present owner as unknown and was unable "to identify a Mulligan who was a friend of Lincoln in 1860."

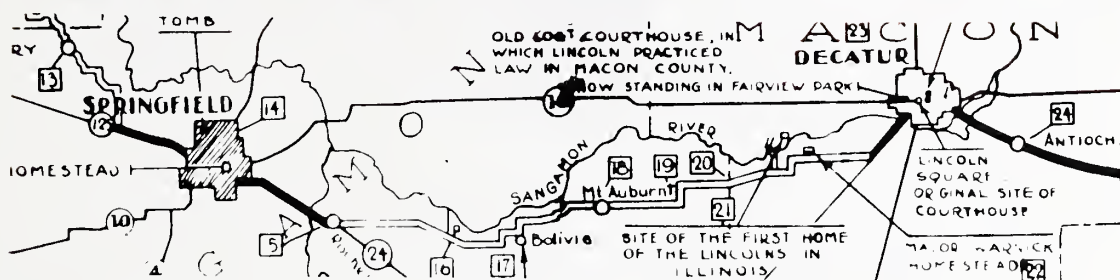
Mr. William Robert Coleman of San Bernardino, California, has written to let us know that he owns the Mulligan copy. Moreover, he has been able to find that Thomas Mulligan was a lawyer in Monticello, Illinois, in the 1850s. He was a Republican and introduced Lincoln when he gave a three-hour speech at Monticello on September 6, 1858. He served as an alternate delegate from Piatt County to the Illinois State Republican Convention which nominated Lincoln for President in May of 1860.

The precise nature of Lincoln's relationship with Mulligan remains unknown. Monticello was a county seat on the Eighth Judicial Circuit, but Lincoln is not known to have associated with Mulligan in arguing cases in Piatt County.

There is more to be learned about the Mulligan presentation copy, as there is with other copies of the *Debates*. If the mysteries can be solved at all, the effort will certainly be advanced by cooperation and exchange of information. Lincoln collectors and students are indebted to Mr. Coleman for revealing the whereabouts of the Mulligan copy and for reminding us of that spirit of cooperation that has made the Lincoln field a joy to work in.



# Mt. Auburn



## Mt. Auburn Lion's Club Sponsoring Restoration of Old Post Office Building by Richard L. Kahne Representative County Tourism Promotion Council (6)

Early this summer with a population a little over 500 people and a aggressive and progressive Lion's Club whose President Orville Bottrell, who is the local bank president, the town of Mt. Auburn on the original Eighth Judicial Circuit as proclaimed by Governor Emerson has taken the lead in Christian County in showing its historic past. They will open to the public their restored Old Post Office.

The front room of this building will have the reconstructed post office of an earlier era, plus at different intervals through out the year various collections of historical artifacts ranging from a button collection to a china doll collection. The doll collection is owned by Mrs. Ophelia Bramel who as one of the leading spirited minded citizens has consented to let the Old Post Office building which she owns used to display these collections. For the art lover there will also be on display paintings from one of central Illinois foremost painters and teachers Mr. K.W. Thomas, a number of his pictures will be available for sale.

In the second room plans have been made to have a reconstructed county newspaper shop with equipment and old newspapers of the

earlier era of Mt. Auburn displayed on the walls. There will be a minor admission fee charged for this exhibit.

Mr. Ben Wood who is heading the Lion's Club committee of this project has stated that Mr. Homer Morgret a leading business man has plans for a craft shop to be open to the public at about the same time as the Post Office, in which crafts of an earlier period will be conducted on weekends and will be for sale to the public.

For the artist the view from the top of the mountain for which Mt. Auburn is named, is a perfect setting for a landscape.



The friendly atmosphere of the town and people to visitors will speak highly of this town and the friendly hospitality of central Illinois.

Mt. Auburn is located approximately 22 miles from Springfield and 10 miles from the Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park.

Lions Club of Mt. Auburn meets the 2nd and 4th Tues. of every month at 6:30 P.M. in the American Legion Hall.

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12

# Outdoor Life

Mount Morris, Illinois

November 1, 1932

Dear Mr. Miller:

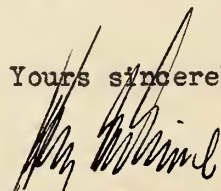
I have your form letter of October 29th addressed to my father, who is no longer the editor of OUTDOOR LIFE.

I cannot promise publicity for the Lincoln Foundation because of the nature of our magazine. Nevertheless, I am seeking some personal information about Lincoln and since you have addressed your letter to us I will mention it to you in case you care to supply the information to me.

I have recently bought the old farm near Mount Morris in which lived for many years a prominent figure in this county by the name of Pinckney. I believe the farm was established around 1840. Lincoln is supposed to have stayed at the farm on many occasions, having been a good friend of Pinckney. There is one room which has been saved as the "Lincoln room" right down to this day, the room where Lincoln used to sleep when visiting here. I am remodeling the house and hope to preserve this room as a library, with what Lincolniana I can get.

If your Foundation can supply me with authentic information about Lincoln's visits to this home I should be very deeply grateful.

Yours sincerely,



Harry McGuire  
Editor

Mr. Harry Miller  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

HMcG:MK



Mt. Morris, Ill.

*Pinckney Home*

18 North Main Street  
Mount Morris, Ill.  
February 17, 1933

February 6, 1933

Editor, *Outdoor Life*  
The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation  
P.O. Box 100, Mount Morris, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I am writing you in response to your letter of January 24, 1933, in which you mention that you have bought a Lincoln land mark. I am glad to hear of this and I am sure that you will be glad to receive the bulletin which this Foundation issues and which is sent gratis to about one thousand Lincoln students.

Mr. Harry McGuire, Editor  
*Outdoor Life*  
Mount Morris, Illinois

Dear Sir:

Your letter written to Mr. Miller many weeks ago has been called to my attention and I feel quite sure that inasmuch as you have bought a Lincoln land mark, you will be glad to receive the bulletin which this Foundation issues and which is sent gratis to about one thousand Lincoln students.

We are happy indeed to place your name on our mailing list and send you back numbers of the publication.

Relative to the Pinckney correspondence with Lincoln we find one letter in which Mr. Pinckney's name is mentioned. In writing to F. B. Washington in 1865 Lincoln said: "Professor Pinckney informed me

We will keep in mind, however, your inquiry about the Pinckney home and if we are able to find further information about it we will be pleased to advise you.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:EB

Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

*(Typed) Charles L. ...*  
1834 100 NORTH MAIN



12 North 11th Avenue  
Marshalltown, Iowa  
January 21, 1958

Editor, Lincoln Lore  
The Lincoln National Life Ins. Company  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Sir:

I am certain that you must subscribe to clipping services and will therefore have received the original clipping from the REGISTER-NEWS, newspaper of Mt. Vernon, the county seat of Jefferson County, Illinois; but just in case, I have copied some of the article and am enclosing it herewith. I was especially interested because Mt. Vernon was once my home town and I have many relatives still living there.

Incidentally, my dentist, while visiting with me about Lincoln recently, said that his aunt had attended one of the debates and had, of course, taken great pleasure in telling about the event in later years. He said she mentioned, as so many other people have, that Lincoln's voice was rather high and not especially pleasant to listen to. On the contrary, she thought that Stephen Arnold Douglas was wonderful, so polished and never at a loss for words.

As you doubtless know, the city of Jonesboro, in Union County, Illinois, will celebrate the centennial of the Lincoln-Douglas debate held there in September 1858. (The reason I know about that city is that I wrote a book about pioneer days in that community and have been in correspondence with some of the citizens while doing research.) In this connection, Dr. Harold Bernhard, who is associated with Iowa State Teachers College, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and who is a native of Jonesboro, tells me that his grandfather was present at the debate, although he was unfortunately too young to understand what was going on.

You may have gathered from this that I am greatly interested in Lincoln and have been since grade school days. I am happy to say that I have all copies of LINCOLN LORE, with the exception of the first few, and treasure them. I want to congratulate you on the new LINCOLN LORE. I like the change of format and should think it would be better from many standpoints, including mailing expense and convenience in filing.

Yours sincerely

(myier) Ota Lee Russell

Ota Lee Russell

FROM THE REGISTER-NEWS  
MOUNT VERNON, ILLINOIS

Abraham Lincoln ran four times for presidential elector, in 1840, 1844, 1852 and 1856. Since his party--the Whigs--lost the state all four times, Lincoln was never called upon to fulfill the duties of an elector. In the 1840 campaign he thought he would try to convert some of the democrats of Southern Illinois to the Whig party. Heartened by his reception on the west side of "Egypt"--at Alton and Belleville--he came further south and east to Mount Vernon where on August 28 he debated with John A. McClernand, later a congressman and Civil War general.

A church building (the site is now a parking lot adjoining the city hall) was being used as a temporary court house. The commissioners permitted McClernand to speak in the morning but in the afternoon decided that court should resume and Lincoln couldn't appear.

So young Lincoln got up on a goods box in the yard of Kirby's Inn and made his talk. (A bronze plaque on the Sears-Roebuck store front marks the spot today.)

The Illinois Central Railroad completed in 1856 was at that time the longest railroad in the U.S.--705 miles. It shared the financial troubles caused by the panic of 1857; in fact, its obligation to pay the State a 7% charter tax made it worse for the Central than for most other roads. Lincoln, who had been attorney for the railroad company for four years, was asked to intercede with his personal friend, State Auditor "Uncle Jesse Dubois" to secure a reduction or delay in the payment of the tax. The matter was brought to suit in the State Supreme Court and decided against the railroad.

Lincoln appealed and since the court's next term was held at Mount Vernon, in what is now the Appellate Court building, the parties came to Ashley, then the nearest railroad point, and then to Mount Vernon by stagecoach. Lincoln was accompanied by George B. McClellan, then vice president of the Illinois Central, and a thorn in Lincoln's flesh as commander of the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War, as well as his opponent in the presidential election of 1864.

Dr. J. H. Watson, member of a prominent Jefferson County family, who died in 1930, at the age of 83, was on the stagecoach with his parents. Since the coach was crowded, Watson, then a 12 year old boy, sat on Lincoln's lap for the 16 mile trip. He enjoyed Lincoln's stories so much that in the evening he went to the hotel hoping he could hear more of them, but found that Lincoln and McClellan were in conference.

After a two day trial the court ruled in favor of the railroad, thus allowing it to continue to operate.

(Lincoln's only political speech in Mt. Vernon is commemorated by the plaque mentioned above.)

January 30, 1958

Miss Ota Lee Russell  
12 North 11th Avenue  
Marshalltown, Iowa

Dear Miss Russell:

Thank you for your very fine letter and enclosure relative to Mt. Vernon and Jonesboro, Illinois. We are pleased to have this information and material for our files.

Sincerely,

(Miss) Margaret Moellering

MM:hw



# And He Signed 'A. Lincoln' in Old Inn in Naperville

BY WAYNE WHITTAKER.

Four score and several years ago a stage coach rumbled over the plank road through Naperville and drew up before the tavern called Pre-Emption house. Down stepped a tall, dark man whose eyes took in a picture of brown inn, tethered oxen, men in hip boots chewing tobacco, children and dogs.

Nobody paid particular heed to the tall man as he stooped to enter the inn's doorway. He crossed the plank floor of the lobby to the desk beyond the bar where sat George Laird, proprietor. Old Mr. Laird pushed the registry book forward, lowered his glasses and said: "Just sign here, stranger."

## Well Known Even Then.

The tall man signed "A. Lincoln." Mr. Laird started with surprise, for even in those pre-civil war days Mr. Lincoln was noted throughout the state.

"Not much of a politician," they said, "but a right smart of a man, a cracking good lawyer and honest."

"Good thing you arrived today 'stead of Saturday," Mr. Laird told him. "First Saturday of every month, you know, is the horse-trading market here and I'm full up. Got a nice front room vacant, No. 7. You can get a good view of any doings on the road. Hey, boy! Where's that porter boy?"

So Abraham Lincoln went up the narrow stairs to room No. 7 where he was to sleep, a simple act which sent the fame of the inn ringing down the avenue of years to 1937.

## Lincoln Came Out and Talked.

The boy who did not carry Lincoln's bag up the stairs had sneaked out the back door, grabbed a saddle horse and ridden off to tell folks that Abraham Lincoln was at Pre-Emption house. Soon a crowd gathered before the inn and Lincoln addressed them from the roof of the porch. And not one man in the crowd took down his words.

"My grand-uncle was Lincoln's host," said Mrs. Louie Laird Wilson, 27 North West street, Naperville. "It was the biggest moment in his life, and our family has been 'Lincoln minded' ever since. Some

of the older residents here may remember his speech."

"Yes, I heard him speak that day," said Lewis M. Rich, 303 West Spring avenue. "I recall him standing there on the porch roof, but I can't remember what he said. You see, I'm an old, old man. I was 92 Thursday and I'm the last civil war veteran left in Naperville. People

tell me I resemble Lincoln, my beard, I guess." He paused, whistled a few notes to himself and added: "Why don't you ask Jake Keller? He's younger than I am. Maybe he'll remember what Lincoln said."

## Memorable Day, But—

But all Jacob Keller, 83, remembered was that he was there the memorable day Lincoln spoke. Mr. Keller produced a log book of the weather which he has kept since 1877. "I can't tell you anything about Lincoln's speech," he said, "but I can tell you that the weather was clear and warm here in Naperville on Feb. 13, 1877!"

Memories of Lincoln's night in Naperville have faded like the plank road and the covered wagons, but the old inn, Pre-Emption house, is still there. The paint on the clapboards is a dingy brown, the front porch is gone and the walls and floors sag in places, but the door is still open for business.

"It's never been closed since the inn was built back in 1834," said James Oldham, the present proprietor.

"One of the local residents recently found the inn's dedication poem written down in an old book," said Mr. Oldham. "It was composed by a man named Nathan Allen and delivered from the ridge-pole of the frame."

The poem reads:

*This place once a wilderness of sav-  
age and owl,  
Where the red man once roamed  
and the prairie wolf howled;  
This house now erected the place  
to adorn,  
To shelter the living and babes yet  
unborn.  
We'll call it Pre-Emption, a law  
that's complete,  
For the use of George Laird,  
Who says he will treat.*

"I guess it's the irony of life that people would save that poem and pay no attention to what Lincoln said," smiled Mr. Oldham. "By the way, the upstairs of the inn is exactly as it was when Lincoln visited here. The rooms haven't been used

for thirty years or so, but the furniture's all there."

He opened a narrow door back of the bar and led the way up the worn stairs. The second floor has six cell-like rooms on either side of the center hallway. The rooms are so small the old wooden beds and wash stands leave little space to spare. Sagging mattresses, a few twisted comforters and an occasional scrap of carpet remain under the dust of years. Lincoln slept in the front corner room with two small-paned windows looking down on the plank road.

## Room Different After All.

The room in which he slept is the same as the others with bed, wash stand and faded wall paper, but still—

"You're sure this is the right room?"

"Positive. There's never been any argument about that."

The visitor looks up at the low doorway, at the No. 7 on the door. He must have had to duck to get through that doorway, and if the bed was that short he must have spent a restless night. Lincoln's eyes had peered through these same panes of glass watching the crowd gathering to hear him talk, the same hand had pushed the curtain back that wrote "four score and seven years ago our fathers"—

No, the room wasn't at all like the others, in spite of the dust and the gloom.

# UNVEIL MARKER AT NEW BOSTON

D. A. R. TO ERECT TABLET  
NEXT FRIDAY AFTER-  
NOON, JUNE 19.

6-19-1931

Preliminary preparations are being made by the William Dennison chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Mercer county, for unveiling a tablet marking an historic spot in New Boston Friday afternoon, June 19. The tablet will mark the spot where Abraham Lincoln laid the cornerstone in New Boston. The cornerstone laid by Lincoln was moved when the state hard road, No. 83, was built and the tablet marking this spot will be placed just to the edge of the slab as near the exact location as possible.

Committee members are selecting the spot in New Boston because of its historic significance, the city being the oldest in the county and near the former home of William Dennison, a Revolutionary war veteran, the first white settler in the county and for whom the Mercer county chapter was named. Mr. Dennison was known, also, in Warren county history as he was a frequent visitor in Monmouth back in the early days when Mercer county was attached to Warren county for administrative purposes.

Added historical prominence is given New Boston because it was surveyed by Abraham Lincoln. The main address at the tablet unveiling ceremonies will be given by Attorney Stanton H. Prentiss of Aledo, a former resident of New Boston, who will speak on the early life of Lincoln.

Mrs. Ralph W. Lee of New Boston, a descendant of William Dennison, will tell of the founding and surveying of New Boston and will unveil the tablet. The pledge to the flag will be given by the audience.

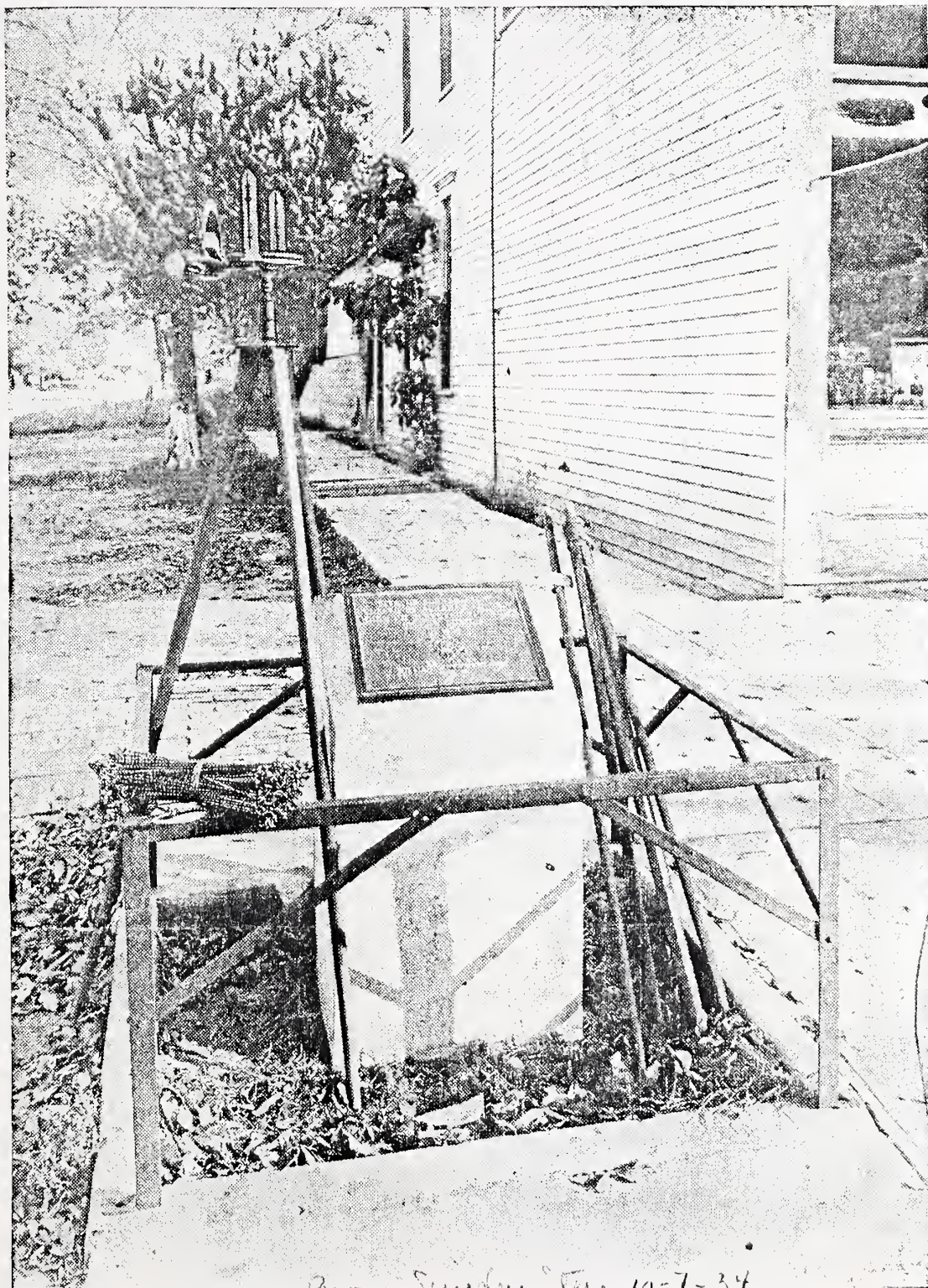
Invitations have been sent by the Daughters of the American Revolution to the Grand Army of the Republic, the Woman's Relief Corps, the American Legion and legion auxiliaries in the county. All ceremonies, scheduled to start at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, are open to the public.

The event will mark the close of summer meetings for the chapter, no other sessions being planned until September. The chapter was organized Sept. 18, 1923, and has approximately 75 members. The purpose of the organization is to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who have achieved American independence by the acquisition and protection of historical spots, the erection of monuments, encouragement of historical research, preservation of documents, relics and records of Revolutionary times and by the observance of patriotic holidays.



**EUREKA COLLEGE STUDENTS WORK ON CAMPUS—**

Scrib Makoy, Monmouth, and Vernon Hunborg, Rockford, students at Eureka college, working on tennis courts, as part of their duties under the Eureka plan of helping students through school.



*Brown Sunday Jan 10-7-34*

**MEMORIAL TO LINCOLN'S SURVEYING OF ILLINOIS TOWN—**

The local D. A. R. erected this memorial tablet at a corner of New Boston, Ill., where Abraham Lincoln placed one of the corner stones in laying out that town. Dedication ceremonies were held September 30, 1934. The surveying instruments are such as were used in Lincoln's time.



# Yellowbanks Newsletter Spring 1990



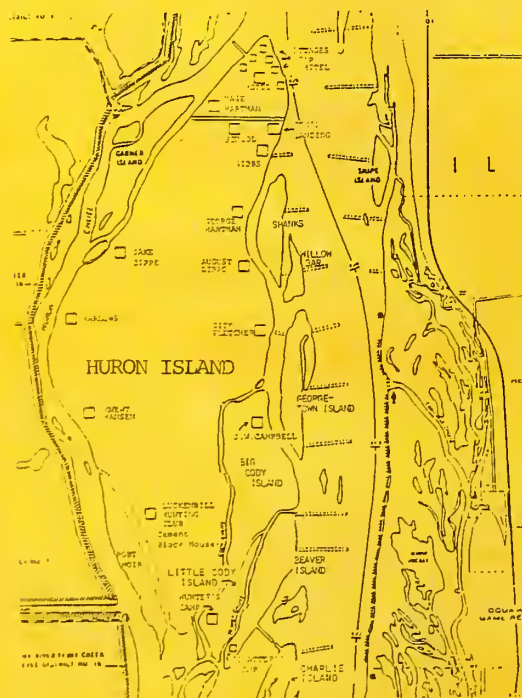
THE YELLOWBANKS  
HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

## About the Association - - - -

The Yellowbanks Heritage Association, a non-profit organization, registered with the State of Illinois, was formed on December 1, 1983. This was the result of an idea by Calvin White, from the Quad Cities, who, with his wife, Shirley, had come to Keithsburg and purchased the Commercial House, one of the old historic buildings in town. He became acquainted with folks from not only Keithsburg, but New Boston to the North and Oquawka to the South, and all situated on the Mighty Mississippi. He felt this area was so rich in history and held such charm that someone should work seriously toward the promotion and thus the sharing of this beautiful area.

## YELLOWBANKS ROUNDUP - - - - -

We designed, printed, and distributed 20,000 brochures throughout Ill. & neighboring states. We produced 2 audio/visual slide presentations. We conducted research necessary to obtain listing on the National Register for Keithsburg's downtown district. We compiled Yellowbanks Cookbook and published 750. We have designed, printed and distributed 2,000 Yellowbanks Resource Reports & are now updating for a 2nd printing. We had our 1st YB Tour of Homes, & planning for the second. Produced an auto cassette tape tour of Keithsburg.



LOCATIONS DESCRIBED BY  
RAY CAMPBELL AND HARLEY ZIPPE  
CIRCA 1900 - 1925

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Annual TOUR OF HOMES

SUNDAY

July 29, 1990

Yellowbanks Road Ramble

Sunday afternoon-evening

October 21, 1990

## Why the name 'Yellowbanks'??

The yellow sand banks along the eastern shore of the Mississippi River were landmarks for the Sac & Fox Indians returning by canoe from hunting trips up north. They had given the name Oquawkiek meaning "yellow banks" to the site now known as Oquawka. Keithsburg was known to them as Middle Yellow Banks and New Boston as Upper Yellow Banks. Thus, when, in 1983, a small group met to form this new association, it seemed to them only fit and proper to call this region Yellow Banks Territory and to name their new organization the Yellowbanks Heritage Association.

Come to the Yellow Banks Territory and take a step back in time. Enjoy the slower pace of life, the beautiful architecture in the Historic District in Keithsburg consisting of some 14 structures. The beautiful views of the Mississippi River from all three small towns, and get a taste of why the original settlers chose to make this their home. Visit the museums, the antique shops, the small family restaurants.

Perhaps get a glimpse of the wildlife as you drive the Illinois Great River Road through Mercer and Henderson Counties in the Yellow Banks Territory in Western Illinois.

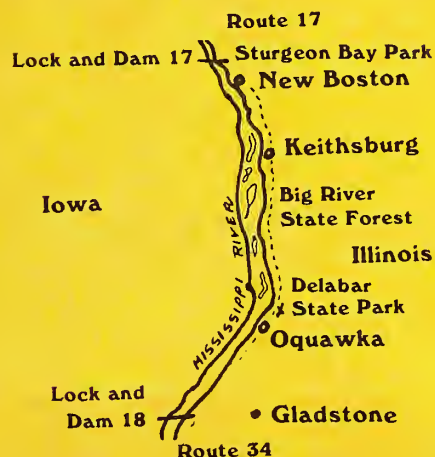
HURON ISLAND  
will be included in our update for the Yellow Banks Territory Resource Report which will be available in June-July this year.



The Yellowbanks First Annual Tour of Homes, July 30, 1989, our FIRST EVER tour was a huge success. We had 5 homes open on the tour, plus 8 other attractions. The only suggestion we heard for any change this year was to extend the hours of the tour, which we have done for this year's tour.

Age does the same thing to people as it does to wine - - - it sours the bad & improves the good!

## YELLOW BANKS TERRITORY



### A HAPPY HOME RECIPE

4 cups of Love      5 spoons of Hope  
2 cups of Loyalty    2 spoons of Tender  
3 cups of Forgiveness      ness  
1 cup of Friendship    4 quarts of Faith  
1 barrel of

Laughter

Take Love & Loyalty, mix it thoroughly with Faith. Blend it with Tenderness, Kindness & Understanding.

Add Friendship & Hope. Sprinkle abundantly with Laughter. Bake it with Sunshine. Serve daily with generous helpings.

This is a recipe for everyone in the family. Guaranteed to come out beautifully as long as you follow the instructions.

(from the Yellow Banks Territory Cookbook)

When you come to the Yellow banks Territory, watch for our black on white signs telling the early owner of the structure and the year the structure was built. They are of uniform size and easily recognizable. The owners display these signs proudly. More are added constantly.

### DRIVING TOUR OF KEITHSBURG

An auto cassette tape tour with map of Keithsburg is available to rent or buy at nominal charge at the Keithsburg Museum, weekends, during warm weather. Play in your cassette player or rent from us. Enjoy a glimpse of past local history.



FYI - - -  
Contact Barb Kelly  
Chairman  
R. #2 Box 225  
Aledo, IL. 61231  
(309) 582-7551

If you are not already a member, and want to help us continue our promotion and preservation, the following is a listing of the membership dues per year:

Student	1.50	Please send your check
Individual	2.50	or MO to:
Family	5.00	Clara L. Knotts
Business	10.00	Box 453
		Oquawka, IL. 61469

Yellowbanks Heritage Association meets the 2nd Thursday of every month in Keithsburg. Please feel free to come to our meetings. Committee meetings: 7:00; Meeting 7:30



Yellowbanks Heritage Assn  
Barb Kelly  
R #2 Box 225  
Aledo, IL 61231



Ruth Cook  
Lincoln Museum **1C**  
1300 South Clinton Street  
Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46801





## CAMPGROUNDS

### DELABAR STATE PARK

A-2 Campground. From Oquawka east one mile, north four miles on county road. Good access roads. Offers 58 graveled, some shaded, some level camp sites. Some electric hookups. Toilets, pets, pay phone, groceries, tables, firewood, camp fires, snacks, dump. 14 days maximum stay. No reservations. Phone 309-867-3671.



### BIG RIVER STATE FOREST

A-2 campground. Five miles south of Keithsburg. Good access roads. Offers 80 graveled, some shaded, some level camp sites. Toilets, pets, pay phone, firewood, camp fires, snacks, dump. River, fishing, boat ramp. Hiking cross country ski trails, horseback trails, berry picking, horse camp. 14 days maximum stay. No reservations. necessary. Phone 309-374-2496.



### KEITHSBURG CAMPGROUND

Riverside camping, good access roads, close to downtown. 40 electric hookups - beautiful river view. Primitive campground available. Boat ramp, water, toilets, hot showers, dump station. Open April - November. No reservations. Phone 309-374-2311.



### STURGEON BAY PARK

New Boston campground. Numerous camp sites, some graveled, some shaded. Located on bluff above the Mississippi River. 150 electrical hookups. Water, sewer, boating, fishing, two boat ramps. No minimum stay no reservations. Daily, monthly rates. April 1 - November 1. Phone 309-587-8367.

## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Yellowbanks Heritage Association, a non-profit corporation was formed on December 1st, 1983.

The purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

- 1) The preservation and restoration of the prehistoric and historic sites of the area.
- 2) The development of tourism for the area and the necessary programs, organizations and facilities for the area and the necessary programs, organizations and facilities for such development.
- 3) To encourage the overall economic development of the area - including trade, industry, small business, housing, and increase employment for the area.
- 4) To obtain and to assist individuals, owners of private and public properties, private funding, public funding, foundations and grants, local, regional state and federal to carry out the above objectives.

Since the Association is totally dependent upon dues and contributions for financial obligations, we will be happy to accept contributions in any amount. Present membership dues have been sent as follows:

Student	\$1.50
Individual	2.50
Family	5.00
Business	10.00

Your membership/contribution is tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to:

Yellowbanks Heritage Association  
Clara L. Knotts  
Box 453  
Oquawka, IL 61469

In Cooperation with the

**ILLINOIS**

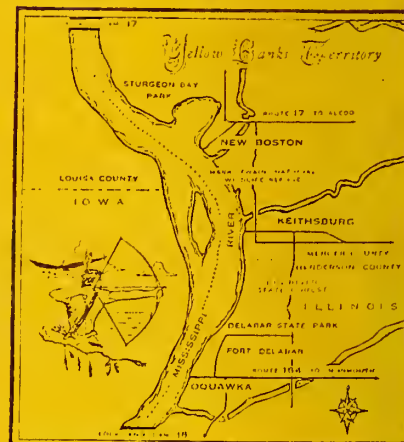
Department of Community Affairs  
Office of Tourism

5M. 3-84 10M. 5-88  
5M. 7-84 20M. 6-91

## YELLOW BANKS TERRITORY

*On The West Coast  
Of Illinois*

*New Boston - Keithsburg - Oquawka*



## WELCOME TO

IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, a time when one could still see miles and miles of tall prairie grasses, acre upon acre of virgin forest, abundant game for the hunter, and above all the majestic Mississippi River, its eastern banks shimmering under a bright afternoon sun.

### ARCHAEOLOGISTS TELL US



that "Indians" inhabited Illinois for at least 10,000 years. In the Yellow Banks area flint arrows, spears, granite axes and other tools have been found. At some time during their stay, probably in the 800's they built many mounds and became known as the Mound Builders.

These mounds are varied in size from quite small to some 150 feet in diameter and 15 feet high. Some were used as signal stations and places of defense. Others were elevations of worship and sacrifice. Many were used as burial places.

It is not known what happened to the Mound Builders. We do know they had a culture far more advanced than that of the Indians who were here many years later.

TO THE SAC AND FOX INDIANS this land was known as Yellow Banks. To Levi W. Myers, early settler in New Boston, who first saw Yellow Banks "in all its beauty" from the top of a bluff just south of Seaton. "the country was so rich and beautiful, it was so near an earthly paradise that it would seem as if every settler would have chosen it as his permanent home."



THE SETTLERS DID COME, crowding the Sac and Fox from their hunting grounds. After the Black Hawk War of 1832, the Indians were forced to flee westward, and in time, the prairie gave way to farmland, the frontier to civilization.

## YELLOW BANKS

SETTLEMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED, wealth accumulated. The little towns of New Boston, Keithsburg and Oquawka prospered. River packets piled the Iowa and Mississippi rivers, wood yards supplied fuel to the packets and steamboats, grist mills dotted the small streams, rich land was farmed. And then the railroads came, bringing even more prosperity.

TODAY, THE WAILING WHISTLE of the trains and the hoot of the steamboats have vanished. The once prosperous communities are lived in by those who simply love the land, river, the woods and their small towns. We ask you to share with us the peacefulness of our villages, the beauty of our forests. Pick our berries, fish our rivers, hike our trails, admire our fine old homes and buildings, remnants of our historic past.

Driving tours of New Boston and Keithsburg are now on cassette tape and available for your use Summer-time weekends only, at a nominal charge. The New Boston tape is at the New Boston Museum lower Main Street. The Keithsburg tape is at the Keithsburg Museum at Washington and 14th Streets. Free for your viewing are two audio/visual presentations of Yellow Banks Territory. These are available for viewing to your organization or group by prearranged request - anywhere in the area. Arrangements can be made by calling (309) 582-7551.

For your convenience, a number of the local buildings and homes throughout the villages have signs showing the original owner's name and date of construction.

### NEW BOSTON



It was here in 1832 that a powwow was held by Keokuk and his peaceful followers and Black Hawk who was determined to fight for Indian rights. Black Hawk's ideas prevailed, the war of 1832 followed and the Indians were driven forever from this area. Named Upper Yellow Banks by the Indians, the village was surveyed in 1834 by Abraham Lincoln and established as New Boston the same year. The town still has a number of old buildings and beautiful old homes.

## TERRITORY

### KEITHSBURG



Known to the Indians as Middle Yellow Banks. Keithsburg was laid out by Robert Keith in 1837. Keith a native of Scotland, never became a citizen. He is buried in the local cemetery. In May 1986 the Keithsburg commercial district was put on the National Register of Historic Places. Some 14 structures contribute to the historic significance of the area. Pressed metal facades, cornices and window hoods are used as decorative elements on nearly every building. Alterations to the buildings are relatively few.

### OQUAWKA



The site of Oquawka was called Oquawkick by the Indians, meaning Yellow Banks, so named from the yellow color of the bluffs lining the river to the north. White settlers continued to call it Yellow Banks for many years. The present Henderson County Court House was given to the city by the Phelps brothers in 1842. It is a handsome two-storied brick structure of Classic Revival design. The Alexis Phelps house, built in 1833 on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, is now being restored by the Henderson County Historical Society.

### HENDERSON CREEK BRIDGE



Two and a half miles south of Oquawka. This century old covered bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites in 1975. During a flood of Henderson Creek in 1982, the bridge was washed away. It has since been completely restored and replaced on the original site, using salvaged parts recovered from the flooded creek.





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# YELLOW BANKS TERRITORY REPORT

NEW BOSTON - STURGEON BAY PARK - MARK TWAIN WILDLIFE  
REFUGE - KEITHSBURG - BIG RIVER STATE FOREST -  
DELABAR STATE PARK - OQUAWKA  
SUMMER 1990 - Volume I, No. 2

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Mark your calendar for the second annual **TOUR OF HOMES** in Yellowbanks Territory! We have expanded our hours this year in answer to requests from last year's participants as some did not have enough time to complete the tour.

Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at any of the homes which will be on the tour. A ticket will be necessary to enter and tour the following homes: the Gideon Ives house and the Don Prentiss home in **New Boston**, and the Vince Carlson home and Palace II home in **Oquawka**. Other places of interest open to the public on the tour will be free.

The Don Prentiss home was built in 1903. A wood frame house with three floors, it is located on Highway 17 just as you come into **NEW BOSTON** - at the corner of Liberty and Broadway. It is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Cook. Aware of the historic significance of their lovely house, they agreed to open their home to the public for this tour.

The Gideon Ives home, built in 1857, is located at Jefferson and Locust across the

street from the Dennison home that was on our tour last year. Locally, they are called the "sister" houses because of their flying staircases and mirror image when one walks in the front door. This is now the home of Bill and Connie Heitman.

Free to the public is the New Boston Museum located on Main and Second streets about two blocks from the river, on the north side of Main. Since New Boston was laid out by Abe Lincoln in 1834, there will be a **Lincoln look-alike** - John Martin, from the quad Cities who will be at the museum building, so be sure to bring your cameras!

In **KEITHSBURG**, the Keithsburg Motel will have a display of teapots from Sharon Reason's collection. Nearby, the new Keithsburg Printing Company will be displaying antique printing presses and other equipment collected by owners Larry and Mary Raid. Cheryl's Dolls and Doll Museum will also be open for your pleasure with a fine collection of antique dolls and doll related memorabilia.



The Commercial House, also on Main Street, has recently been purchased. The new owners plan to restore the building over a period of time. It will be open for a walk-through during the tour.



The old Ellett House at the corner of 10th and Washington will also be open. Plans are to have a flea market there and a display of antique tractors.

Also open to the public will be the Susan L. Reason Keithsburg Museum, located at 14th Street and Washington. The museum now has five rooms in the former grade school.

On the way out of Keithsburg, be sure to stop at St. Mary's Catholic Church, the oldest Catholic church in Mercer County. This beautiful little church is a must for history buffs.

In OQUAWKA, Vince and Louise Carlson's home will be on view. If you like antiques and the stories behind them, you will definitely enjoy touring this lovely home. And if you have ever dreamed about a home right on the banks of the Mississippi, Palace II is **the** place to visit. And if you care to enjoy a short ride on the river, a pontoon boat will be on hand; the cost for the ride will be \$1.00.

The Oquawka Museum is another stop you will enjoy. This old home was donated to

the Village of Oquawka by Fred Schlotzhauer. It is presently being renovated by the Museum committee.

Another stop on the tour is the Alexis Phelps house built in 1833. Located on a bluff between Second Street and Hancock, it has a magnificent view of the river. The house is being restored by the Henderson County Historical Society and is a link to the pioneer past of our area.

And before you leave Oquawka, be sure to drive by the grave of Norma Jean Elephant and read the story behind this interesting event.



\*\*\*\*\*  
*Restrooms and food will be available throughout the tour route. So come to Yellowbanks Territory and enjoy a bit of our history and interesting people and places!*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

## **SIGNS ORDERED BY YELLOWBANKS**

Six signs have been ordered by Yellowbanks, two for each town - for posting at the entrances to New Boston, Keithsburg and Oquawka. Caroline Hawks has been commissioned to do the artwork. On each will be "Welcome to Yellowbanks Territory". The signs will be similar, but larger than the ones now seen on some of the towns' historic buildings.



## NEW BOSTON MUSEUM

In conjunction with the TOUR OF HOMES on July 29th, the Museum plans to have an Arts and Crafts show on the Museum grounds. Members will be selling cake and ice cream, iced tea and pop. There will also be displays inside the Museum such as quilts, art work and pictures of New Boston and its residents taken in the early 1900's. Basic dues to the New Boston Historical Society are: \$5 a year, \$25 gift membership, or a \$100 lifetime membership. Lifetime members will be honored on a plaque at the Museum.

## BOOK ON KEITHSBURG

Soon to come off the press is a book on Keithsburg by Harry C. Martin, titled "A Sentimental Journey". The author who now lives in Sierra Madre, California, was born in Keithsburg in 1901 and lived here until shortly after his 17th birthday. Final printing date and cost will be advised at a later date. For anyone who has lived in a small town on the Mississippi River, this book will be of great interest. For more information, contact Nan Wooten at (309) 867-4565.

## KEITHSBURG MUSEUM

The Keithsburg Museum founded in 1985 has graduated from one room to four with a fifth room on its way to completion. According to curator Sharon Reason, the new room will be used for files, newspapers and other information for research and family genealogies.

This is the first year the museum has solicited members. Dues are: Individual \$3.50, Family \$7.50, Gift \$25, and Lifetime \$100. The museum is located at 14th Street and Washington. Hours are from 1 PM to 5 PM Wednesday through Friday and on Sunday. You can make arrangements for other times by calling Sharon at (309) 374-2659

## TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:

Many will be shocked to find  
When the day of Judgment nears  
That there's a special place in heaven  
Set aside for volunteers.  
Furnished with big recliners,  
Satin couches and footstools,  
Where there's no newsletters to be labeled  
No envelopes to be stuffed  
No letters to be folded  
No names to be matched.  
Nothing to be counted or bundled  
Not one thing to be stamped or mailed  
But a finger snap will bring  
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,  
And rare treats fit for a king  
You ask, who'll serve these privileged few  
And work for all they're worth?  
Why, all those who reaped benefits -  
And not once volunteered on earth!



## A LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN:

The Yellowbanks Heritage Association has made big strides since the beginning of my chairmanship in January 1989. I am proud to say that we have from 20 to 30 people attending our monthly meetings including representatives from the city councils of each of our three towns. I cannot say enough good things about our "regulars" to our meetings. You are truly interested in promoting our beautiful area. This means improving our "territory" economically, too!

Dues for membership in Yellowbanks are: Student \$1.50, Individual \$2.50, Family \$5 and Business \$10. Your contributions/donations are greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Yellowbanks Heritage Association and mailed to Clara Knotts, P.O. Box 453, Oquawka, IL. 61469. For further information about our organization, please contact me.

Historically Yours,

Barb Kelly  
RR 2 Box 225  
Aledo, IL. 61231  
(309) 582-7551

Your contribution is tax deductible as we are a non-profit organization. Thanks so much for your interest and help.

## YELLOW BANKS TERRITORY

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 1  
Oquawka, IL.



Ruth Cook  
Lincoln Museum  
1300 South Clinton St.  
Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46801

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# YELLOW BANKS TERRITORY REPORT

NEW BOSTON - STURGEON BAY PARK - MARK TWAIN WILDLIFE  
REFUGE - KEITHSBURG - BIG RIVER STATE FOREST -  
DELABAR STATE PARK - OQUAWKA  
FALL 1990 - VOLUME I, NO. 3

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**ROAD RAMBLE**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21**  
**12 NOON - CHECK IN**  
**KEITHSBURG**

## ROAD RAMBLE

A first-ever Road Ramble in Yellowbanks Territory will take place on Sunday, October 21st. Check-in time is 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Keithsburg boat access area and camp ground.

The Ramble is open to anyone with a valid driver's license. Each car must have both a driver and a navigator. The registration fee is \$15 for two people per car. This will entitle them to the wiener roast which will follow the Ramble. If there are additional passengers in any car who plan to stay for the wiener roast, \$2 per person will be charged. The registration fee is not refundable.

For those of you who are not familiar with a road ramble, a bit of explanation is in order. Each car will receive a map and a list of questions for which answers must be found. There will be check points throughout the Ramble where you must stop, check in, and perform any task that is asked of you. You will be requested to leave your vehicle a number of times during the Ramble. This is NOT a speed rally.

The route will be from the Keithsburg boat access area, through a designated part of town, then to New Boston and Oquawka. The route will be on blacktop and highways only - no gravel roads. This is our version of a road rally/poker run.



Keep in mind that a bit of local history will be involved. This will be a real fun afternoon, and you can look forward to seeing a pretty part of the West Coast of Illinois - Yellowbanks Territory.

A prize will be awarded to the person who comes up with the most answers - probably a \$100 savings bond. A wiener roast will follow the Ramble and the food will be furnished. To get your registration form, contact Barb Kelly, RR #2, Box 225, Aledo, Illinois 61231 or call (309) 582-7551.

## GENEALOGY BUFFS!

Within a few weeks, the Keithsburg Museum will be the proud owners of a new microfilm viewer/printer. According to curator Sharon Reason, the museum has been able to raise enough money to make this very useful and invaluable purchase.

Sharon has also ordered, through the Illinois State Historical Library, 20 rolls of microfilm on Keithsburg going back to the 1850's up through 1960. These are all of the old newspapers that have been put on microfilm. Ordered, too, is a microfilm on New Boston. The cost of each roll is \$16.00.

When more money becomes available, Sharon hopes to purchase all the microfilm on Mercer County. At the present time, Seaton has 19 films and Aldeo has 103.



According to Sharon, "These microfilms will be a great asset to everyone interested in tracing family history and genealogy. I give my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the museum and made all of this possible.

Sharon reported that she has had a very good season this year with more visitors than ever before. The museum will close November 1st for the winter but will be opened by appointment by calling (309) 374-2659. The 1991 season will begin on April 1st.

The museum is located at 14th Street and Washington. Hours are from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and on Sundays. Dues are \$3.50 for individuals, \$7.50 family, \$25.00 for a gift/donation, and \$100 lifetime membership.



## HERITAGE TRAIL DAYS

The 15th annual Heritage Trail will be held September 29 and 30 with a kick-off public weiner roast to be held on Friday evening at Bailey's Cave. An expert will be on hand to identify fossils and to give a history of the cave. Weekend activities include a parade, quilt shows, Lock and Dam tours, pageants, a three act comedy, Living History reenactments, historic demonstrations, displays and crafts, church dinners, music and entertainment, museum tours, a Civil War skirmish, an art show, mule jump, plus much more. The wind up of the trail will be on Sunday at 5 p.m. when an historical musical skit will be presented at the old South Henderson Church carrying out the 1990 theme of "Our Religious Heritage".

A perennial popular feature will be the three day trail ride through the county. Riders may join anywhere. And meals will be provided if desired. For further

information on the trail ride, write or call Jane Evans, (309) 924-1867, Stronghurst, Illinois 61480.

For general information, contact Jane Evans or Rosalie Melvin at (309) 867-5451, Oquawka, ILlinois 61469.



## NEW CASSETTE TAPE

Yellowbanks Heritage Association now has a 24 minute audio cassette tape available. The tape was prompted by requests from World Wide Country Tour groups who toured the area in August. Local tour guides Barb Kelly and Sharon Reason were asked to record the information they gave the groups during the bus ride from Aledo to the Henderson Covered Bridge.

The tape includes many interesting facts and figures about Mercer and Henderson counties, statistics, crops, listings of places on the National Register plus several very interesting stories about Joy's history.

Anyone interested in obtaining the tape should contact Barb Kelly. The cost of the tape is \$7.50.

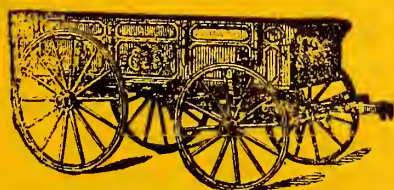
**\*\*ANYONE WHO RESPECTS HIS TOWN'S PAST RESPECTS ITS FUTURE\*\***

## OQUAWKA MUSEUM NEWS

Members of the Oquawka Museum committee are slowly but steadily acquiring memorabilia for their city museum, maintaining a filing system on their acquisitions and otherwise improving the property which was deeded to the city by Leo Frans of Peoria. The museum is located on the same street as the Phelps House in a good location near downtown.

It will be open to the public on the Saturday and Sunday of Heritage Trail from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with cookies and homemade bread for sale (on Saturday only). The Trail is September 29 and 30.

Also on Saturday, a home canning judging will take place at 10 a.m. Historical craft demonstrations will continue all day with rope making, button cutting and fish smoking. The smoked fish will be for sale. On Sunday will be tours only.



## APPRECIATION DAY

On October 20th, the Boston Bay Conservation Club will host a wiener roast for all kids and adult members with everything provided.

A Quail Release program is being planned for Mercer County members. Yearly memberships are \$10 per family and \$5 for an individual.

Monthly meetings are held the third Saturday of every month from May through October. For more information contact Lex Jones at (309) 587-8517.



## YARD SALE A SUCCESS

The New Boston Historical Society city-wide yard sale held August 18th was a great success and plans are underway to repeat the sale next year.

The New Boston Museum also had plans to be open on September 8th for a Quilt Show and concessions to be held in conjunction with the New Boston Fish Fry.

According to Judi Gould the museum will be busy displaying donated objects and estate exhibits this fall. "We now have the opportunity of going forward with preserving and collecting materials dealing with the city of New Boston. My thanks to all the members and volunteers for their support."

If you have any questions about the Society or Museum, call Judi at (309) 587-8217.

Memberships are \$5 a year for individuals, \$25 gift member, and \$100 for lifetime member.



## A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

On September 26th, Harry Martin, author of "A Sentimental Journey" plans to visit his old hometown of Keithsburg. He will not only celebrate the publishing of his book, but plans to visit with his friends, take a look at Old Man River and "revive a few old echoes".

Harry was born in Keithsburg in 1901 and his book is about that "period of time just when a boy is leaving childhood and not yet turned the corner into manhood and the worries of the world have not yet touched him". It is a delightful book, entertaining and fun to read. It will be available at local stores shortly.



## FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

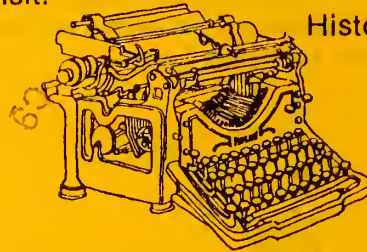
Several exciting things have happened since our last newsletter! Our Tour of Homes on July 29th was a BIG SUCCESS with twice as many people coming as last year. Everyone who came really enjoyed the attractions and we, in Yellowbanks, wish to thank everyone who helped to make the day such a success and to thank the public for coming to visit us.

On August 13th and 20th, World Wide Country Tours came through our area with tourists from all over the United States. (Their tour covered parts of Illinois and Iowa and ended with a cruise on the Mississippi River).

Sharon Reason and I joined the tour buses in Aledo and acted as their tour guides on their way between Aledo and the covered bridge just south of Oquawka. I think it was as much fun for Sharon and me

as it seemed to be for the tour groups - from all the comments and compliments we received. Especially the comments about how interesting the ride was when they learned something about the area they were traveling through.

Hopefully we can attract more tour groups in the future. This is something we will work on. We also provided each tour member with a special packet: our brochure, lapel pin, newsletters, information from Big River State Forest, brochures on Heritage Trail and the Wyatt Earp Museum in Monmouth, and a special note pad from Yellowbanks. It was a wonderful experience for Sharon and me and we hope to have them back in Yellowbanks Territory for a much longer visit.



Historically Yours,  
Barb Kelly

## YELLOW BANKS TERRITORY



THIRD CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 20  
Aledo, Illinois

Ruth Cook  
Lincoln Museum  
1300 South Clinton St.  
Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46801

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# YELLOW BANKS TERRITORY REPORT

NEW BOSTON - STURGEON BAY PARK - MARK TWAIN WILDLIFE  
REFUGE - KEITHSBURG - BIG RIVER STATE FOREST -  
DELABAR STATE PARK - OQUAWKA  
WINTER 1991 VOLUME II NUMBER I

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## WINTER 1830 - 1831

The following account appeared in the August 8, 1906 edition of the Oquawka Spectator and will be reprinted in our newsletter in two installments. It was written by Captain William Phelps, brother of Alexis and Sumner Phelps who founded the village of Oquawka.

It was said of Captain Phelps that among all the early pioneers he probably knew more of Indian life in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri than anyone at that time. He was a fur trader and did an immense business among them for twenty years. He was implicitly trusted by them, was their very good friend, and spoke their various languages as well as any of them. His story is about the first winter spent with his bride, Caroline Kelsey Phelps.

"I was married in Lewistown, March 2, 1830. The next September my father supplied me with an outfit of Indian goods; guns, blankets, ammunition, trinkets, etc. These, with my wife and a grey kitten were loaded into a wagon and magnificent big dog, we made our way to Yellow Banks (now Oquawka) where my brother Sumner resided. Here I procured an Indian canoe and enlarged it so it would carry my goods and family consisting of my wife, myself, my dog and my grey kitten.

"We crossed the Mississippi and slowly made our way about 25 miles up that stream when the water got so shallow that we had to end our voyage much quicker than (than) I intended. So we made a landing in a deep forest and proceeded to build a cabin. I cut the trees on the ground and did not have to move any of the logs many feet. My wife helped me with all my work. When I lifted one end of log to



its corner, she would hold it in place until I lifted the other end. So in a little time we had a very comfortable place.

"In October, the Black Hawk tribe of Indians passed westward on their annual great hunt. I sold these Indians all my guns except one, and supplied them with ammunition. They expected to return January 1st, but were caught in the deep snow and did not come back until the next April.

"The deep snow commenced about the 15th day of November. It fell at different periods for several weeks until it was about four feet deep on the level in the woods where it did not drift. From the time the snow commenced falling until the following April, we did not see one human being. Our desolate condition can be better imagined than described.

"The climax of our misfortunes was reached when I accidentally broke the mainspring of my only gun. That was a loud hint of starvation for I could not mend it, and knew not how I was to procure food. The deep snow prevented us from retreating, and nobody could come to us.





"One day I heard the big dog making a desperate fight in the woods nearby. I hastened to the spot and found that he had a monstrous buck at bay in the deep snow. I knew at once that I had to get that deer. I took out my dirk knife, cut a long dogwood pole, split one end of it, inserted the handle of my dirk and tied it tightly with one of my moccasin strings. With this weapon I crept as close to the deer as I dared, and made a lunge to cut his throat. Then mister deer made a break at me, but I dodged among the trees while the dog kept snapping at his heels, and he would soon be at bay again.

"I made several thrusts at his throat, but finally a lucky cut severed his jugular vein and he soon bled to death. That was great luck, and we lived well for several weeks. Then our little store of bacon and meal got very low and musty, and the situation began to look squally enough. To be continued...



## ONGOING PROJECT ALERT

Yellowbanks Heritage Association has undertaken not one, but two worthwhile projects for 1991. Both of these have been under discussion at several brainstorming sessions. Both have been discussed at previous meetings. And both have been brought to the attention of government officials.

### 1. NEW BOSTON FERRY

The restoration of the ferry from the Illinois side of the Mississippi at New Boston to the Iowa side at Oakville has been under consideration for several years and has en-

gendered enthusiasm and interest from a number of people. We met with Senator Denny Jacobs requesting help with this worthwhile project.

### 2. LODGING AT BIG RIVER STATE FOREST

Big River is the only State Park in the entire state of Illinois without any type of a lodging facility. Senator Denny Jacobs has expressed his interest in this project and will do everything he can to help us.

We need to convince the Department of Conservation in Springfield that lodging at Big River is economically feasible. We have much to offer visitors to Big River State Forest on a year round basis: bird-watching, hiking trails, cross country skiing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, snowmobile trails, etc.

We need *letters of support* for both of these projects from those of you who now live in the area or have previously lived here and would like to see these endeavors realized. Please address your letters to Barb Kelly, Chairman, R.R. #2, Box 225, Aledo, Illinois 61231.



## LETTER FROM HARRY

### GREETINGS TO THE YELLOWBANKS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

May I congratulate all of you for the marvelous work you are doing on behalf of the Yellow Banks area. It is badly needed, even vital. America, in its headlong rush to tear down and rebuild has systematically destroyed more than old buildings. With the demolition we have often obliterated something very precious ... our heritage, the legacy of our forefathers. There is more than just brick, mortar and old lumber in historic homes and business buildings; they are after all, a repository of dreams. Your work is most important and in these tumultuous and uncertain times, it is well to remember the past.

At this time I wish to thank all those wonderful people who made my recent trip to Keithsburg such a memorable occasion. The capstone of my visit was the autograph session at the Museum (in Keithsburg). I am deeply grateful to everyone.

America is now engaged in an unbelievable project of exploring Outer Space. May the New Year bring us greater understanding and Inner Peace for all.

Best Wishes  
*Harry C. Martin*  
 December 16, 1990

(Harry Martin is the author of "A Sentimental Journey", a book about his youth in Keithsburg from 1901 to 1918. Of the 500 published, nearly 300 books have been sold. If you do not have a copy yet, please order from Nan Wooten RR 1, Box 188-E, Oquawka, Illinois 61469. The cost per book is \$7.00 plus postage.)



If you are interested in becoming member of the Yellowbanks Historical Society contact:

Clara L. Knotts  
 P.O. Box 453  
 Oquawka, IL 61469



### 1991 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 4	New Boston Museum Annual Meeting	July 28	New Boston Bay Conservation Club Bazaar, Bake Sale and Garage Sale
April 6	New Boston Museum Opens Open weekends through September	August 17	New Boston Bay Conservation Club Kid's Fishing Derby
April 7	Sharon L. Reason Keithsburg Museum Open Wednesdays, Sundays and by appointment through November	August 18	Keithsburg Boat-In Breakfast
April 28	New Boston Museum Dedication	August 24-25	Keithsburg Riverfest
May 25, 26, 27, 28	Henderson County Sesquicentennial 14th Annual Arts & Crafts Show at Delabar State Park between Keithsburg and Oquawka	September 7	New Boston Fish Fry, Band Concert, and Ice Cream Social
May 25-26	Dragon Boat Races Riverside Park, Oquawka	September 7	Tentative: New Boston Museum Sponsoring Voyager Canoe and Indian Storyteller
May 26	Yellowbanks Road Ramble Starting point in Keithsburg	September 7	New Boston Bay Conservation Club Tent of 100 Prizes
May 26	New Boston Museum Doll Show	September 28-29	Henderson County Heritage Trail Arts & Crafts at Delabar State Park between Keithsburg and Oquawka
June 8-9	Keithsburg Annual Fish Fry	October 19	New Boston Bay Conservation Club City-Wide Weiner Roast
June 15	New Boston City-Wide Yard Sale	October 26	New Boston Museum Pumpkin Carving Contest -- Judging on October 27
July	New Boston Fireworks	November 16	Third Annual National Cap Collectors CAPvention - Keithsburg Printing and Museum
July 6-7	Big River Crossroads of Forestry Big River State Forest between Keithsburg and Oquawka	December 7	New Boston Museum Christmas Tea and Ball
July 13	Sailboat Races-Keithsburg to Oquawka		
July 28	Third Annual Yellowbanks' Tour of Homes		



## FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

The year 1990 has come and gone, and we in Yellow Banks Territory wish all of you health and prosperity in the coming year.

Even though I have never lived in Yellow Banks, I want to tell you a little bit about why I am involved and interested in this area. My grandparents are still both alive (grandpa is 102 and grandma is 97), and living in the Mercer County Nursing Home in Aledo. They celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary last April. They were both from Keithsburg and lived there for several years after their mar-

**Your contribution is tax deductible as we are a non-profit organization. Thanks so much for your interest and help.**

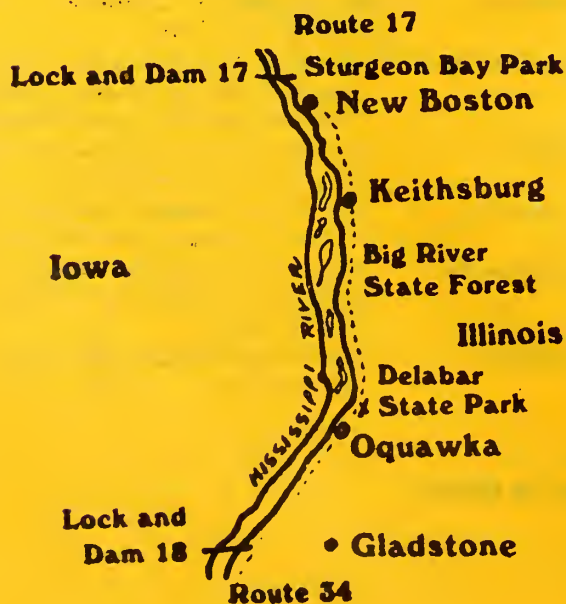
riage in 1911. My mother was born there and on that day the little packet boat, the *Helen Blair*, went by Keithsburg. Grandma had always loved this little boat, so she named my mother "Helen" partly for this boat. Many's the story that grandma has told me about things that happened when she was a girl around the turn of the century, things she remembers that one doesn't read about in a history book.

RR 2, Box 225  
Aledo, Illinois 61231  
(309) 582-7551



Historically Yours,  
Barb Kelly

## YELLOW BANKS TERRITORY



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Aledo, Illinois

Ruth Cook  
Lincoln Museum *LC*  
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Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46801

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# YELLOW BANKS TERRITORY REPORT

NEW BOSTON - STURGEON BAY PARK - MARK TWAIN WILDLIFE

REFUGE - KEITHSBURG - BIG RIVER STATE FOREST -

DELABAR STATE PARK - OQUAWKA

VOLUME III SPRING 1992 NUMBER 1

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## Oakville Members

We are always happy to see the Oakville members at our meetings. If only we had the ferry reinstated, it would make their trip much shorter.

Some members had guests from Wapello and Louisa County, Iowa to talk about their Three River Drive which will be on May 16th and 17th, 1992. The proposed tour will include ten towns, Kingston, Oakville, Mediapolis, Morning Sun, Wapello, Grandview, Columbus Junction, Columbus City, Letts and Toolesboro. Local community groups will schedule craft shows, exhibits and highlight other local attractions to draw visitors to the tour.

For more information contact:

Dale Wehage 319 - 766 - 3401

Bill Beeding 319 - 766 - 3751

Tom Thornburg 319 - 766 - 3611

## "The Middle Mississippi"

by Pat Middleton

This book is Pat's second edition about life in the small communities along the Great River Road. The first edition was "The Upper Mississippi". The second edition includes information on the Yellowbanks Territory which includes New Boston, Keithsburg and Oquawka. The book sells for \$11.95 and can be obtained by contacting one of Yellowbanks members or sending your order to:

Sharon Reason

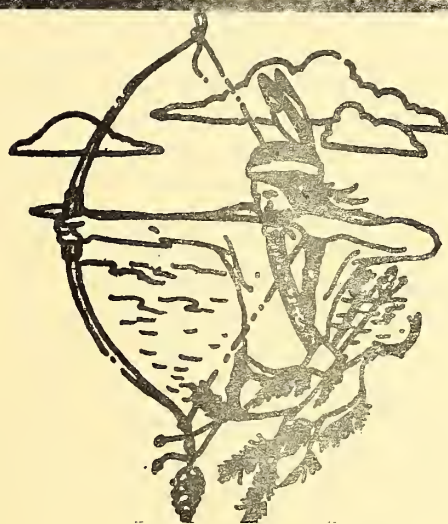
P. O. Box 128

Keithsburg, IL 61442

309 - 374 - 2659

## Keithsburg News

Keithsburg News is being printed again, thanks to the efforts of owners Larry and Mary Raid, and Managing Editor Judi Roberts. They print current events and local news, and stories from the past, etc. To subscribe to the newspaper, contact the Keithsburg Printing and Museum Co., Keithsburg, IL 61442 309 - 374 - 2650.



## Progress on the

### Commercial House

Rupert and Gail Wenzel have been working on their project during the winter months.

This building was built in 1849. The Wenzels are doing major restoration to have a small antique mall. Six dealers will be offering antique jewelry, watches, sheet music and primitive furniture plus other interesting items. The Wenzels specialize in ephemera. They plan to open Memorial Day Weekend.

## Yellowbanks Visitors' Center

Yellowbanks Heritage Association will have an office and Visitors Center located in the Commercial House at 413 Main Street in Keithsburg, IL 61442. Brochures, newsletters and other information will be available.

Ray and Sandy Barkau have also announced that their Blue Spruce Lodge, Aledo, Illinois 61231 will also be a tourist information center.

## Annual Tour of Homes

Our annual *Tour of Homes* will be July 25 and 26, 1992. Anyone interested in having their home on the Tour, Please contact Barb Kelly 309 - 582 - 7551 or Sharon Reason 309 - 374 - 2659.





## Ferry Update

Several Yellowbanks members attended a public meeting where Congressman Jim Leach was the speaker. Congressman Leach indicated that he was very much aware of our efforts to reinstate the ferry and he was definitely interested in helping us whatever way he could. Since that time, we have been contacted by Leach's office and was told by his staff that more detailed engineering study would have to be completed.

There is no problem on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River at New Boston, Illinois. The additional study and work involves the present Oakville Ferry Landing park area and the dredging of the river at the mouth of the Iowa River.

This project has been very slow, but we will continue our efforts and do whatever we have to do to have the ferry reinstated to connect New Boston, Illinois to Oakville, Iowa once again.

## Officers for 1992

Directors - 3 year term

Eugene Smith  
Nan Wooten  
Clara Knots  
Rex McIntire  
Chris Long  
Mary Raid

Directors - 1 year term

Al Livingston  
Art Schrader

Directors - until 1993

Clarence Reason  
Bob Scaman  
Larry McHenry  
Cheryl McIntire

One year term:

Chairman - Barb Kelly  
Honorary Vice Chairman - Mona Parsons  
Vice Chairman - Sharon Reason  
Secretary - Cheryl Long  
Treasurer - Carl Schneckloth

## Fort Delabar Log Village

J. J. and Pat Comer have been working very hard expanding their Log Village. J. J. has cleared more land to make room for parking area. They are planning a 10 acre flea market-craft show-antiques. This will be held on:

May 30-31, 1992  
June 27-28, 1992  
July 25-26, 1992  
Aug. 29-30, 1992  
Sept. 26-27, 1992  
Oct. 24-25, 1992

For more information contact:

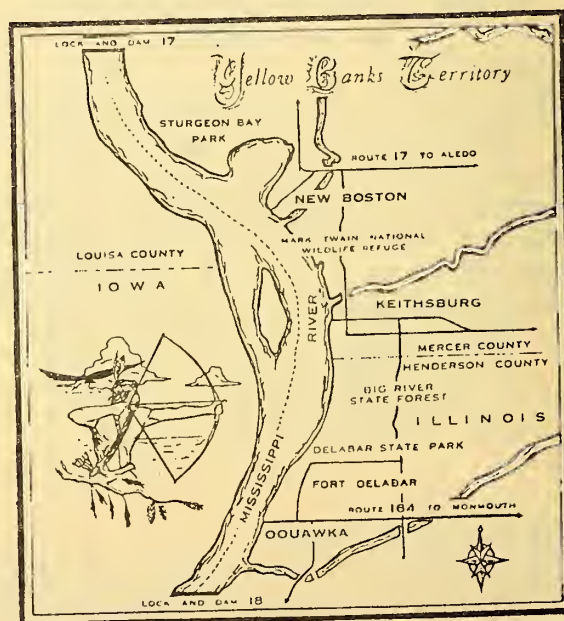
J. J. and Pat Comer  
P. O. Box 61  
Oquawka, IL 61469  
309 - 867 - 2808

## Bus Tours Through the Yellowbanks Territory

Several bus tours have been scheduled to drive through the Yellowbanks Territory.

The schedule to date is:

May 16, 1992 - Tri-State Tours  
June 8, 1992 - American Vision Travel  
- Sr. Citizens Mystery Tour  
(2 bus loads)  
August 17, 1992 - World Wide Country Tours  
August 24, 1992 - World Wide Country Tours  
October 27, 1992 - Tri-State Tours  
Franciscan Senior Services  
(4 bus loads)



Tour Yellowbanks

## 1992 Calendar of Events

April 26 Chautauqua 2-4 pm  
 New Boston Museum  
 May 16-17 Three Rivers Drive  
 Louisa County Museum  
 May 17 Doll Show 1-5 pm  
 New Boston Museum  
 May 23-24 Dragon Boat Races & Festival  
 Oquawka  
 Parade 10 am Sat 23  
 Dragon Boat Races start 12 noon  
 Sat 23  
 Run Oc Race 1 pm Sun 24  
 Humanes Society's Art &  
 Craft Show  
 Delabar State Part 23, 24 & 25  
 Historical Society's Fish Fry  
 Delabar State Park 11 am Sun 24  
 May 30-31 Flea Market & Crafts  
 Ft. Delabar Log Village  
 June 7 Public Fish Fry  
 Delabar State Park 11 am 2 pm  
 June 12-14 Keithsburg Fish Fry  
 June 13 New Boston Museum  
 City Wide Yard Sale  
 8 am to 5 pm  
 June 27-28 Flea Market & Crafts  
 Ft. Delabar Log Village  
 July 4-5 Cross Roads of Forestry  
 Big River State Forest  
 July 4 Ice Cream Social  
 Aledo High School Football  
 Field 7:30 pm - dark  
 Fourth of July Parade and  
 Activities Aledo  
 July 11 Oquawcup Sail Boat Race  
 Keithsburg to Oquawka  
 Starts at 12 noon  
 July 13-14 Mercer County Fair  
 Fairgrounds Aledo  
 July Henderson County Fair  
 July 25-26 Yellowbanks Tour of Homes  
 New Boston, Keithsburg,  
 Oquawka 10 am to 5 pm  
 Flea Market & Crafts  
 Ft. Delabar Log Village

July 31 Opera House Stage Revue  
 Aledo Opera House 7:30 pm  
 Aug 22 Sadie Hawkins Day Dance  
 New Boston Museum  
 Aug 1-2 Opera Houses Stage Revue  
 Aledo Opera House  
 Sat 7:30 pm Sun 2 pm  
 Aug 6-8 Gladstone Homecoming  
 Aug 16 New Windsor Rodeo  
 Boat-in Breakfast  
 Keithsburg  
 Aug 18 Evening in the Park  
 Joy 4 pm  
 Aug 20-22 New Windsor Fair  
 Rodeo & Horse Show  
 Aug 21-23 Keithsburg Riverfest  
 (Lighthouse Tap & Restaurant  
 Aug 28 Essley Noble Museum  
 Ice Cream Social  
 Aledo 5-7:30 pm  
 Aug 29-30 Flea Market & Crafts  
 Ft. Delabar Log Village  
 Sept 416 Bluegrass Music Weekend  
 Fairgrounds Aledo  
 Sept 26 Hog Theif Holler Annual 5 k  
 Run-Open to Public starts at  
 Henderson Creek Covered Bridge  
 Dragon County Run  
 Aledo 8:30 am  
 Sept 26-27 Heritage Trail Days  
 Henderson County Festival  
 Flea Market & Crafts  
 Ft. Delabar Log Village  
 Oktoberfest Aledo  
 Oct 24-25 Flea Market & Crafts  
 Ft. Delabar Log Village  
 Oct 25 Pumpkin Carving Contest  
 New Boston Museum 1-5 pm  
 Oct 29 YMCA Haunted House Aledo  
 Nov 14 National Cap Collectors  
 CAPvention Keithsburg  
 One Nation Under God Breakfast  
 Exchange Club VFW  
 Aledo 7-8 am  
 Dec 5 Christmas Tea & Ball  
 New Boston Museum  
 YMCA Christmas Bazaar VFW  
 Aledo 8 am 3 pm





## Updated Slide Presentation

The Yellowbanks slide presentation update has been completed. Chairman, Barb Kelly, has shown the slide presentation to Senior Service Groups and Tour Bus Groups, etc. This is a very interesting presentation and if anyone or any group is interested in viewing this, please contact Barb Kelly 309 - 582 - 7551.

## Membership

If you are not already a member, and would like to help us to continue our efforts to promote and preserve our area, please send your membership to: Yellowbanks Heritage Association

% Clara Knotts

P. O. Box 453

Oquawka, IL 61609

Student	.....	\$2.00
Individual	.....	\$5.00
Family	.....	\$7.50
Business	.....	\$15.00

We appreciate your membership and any donations you wish to send to help support the Yellowbanks Association.

## Museum Information

The museums in Oquawka, Keithsburg and New Boston were presented with 10x12 prints of the original painting that was done in the 1830's near the south end of Oquawka, Illinois. The steamboat "Pavilion" is in the foreground or the picture and the Phelps house is in the background. Rupert Wenzel purchased the original painting and took it to an art gallery in Chicago to be cleaned and restored to its present condition. Barb Kelly made the prints from the original picture. All of the museums are very grateful to have the prints to display for all to see.

## Museums Open

All of the museums are open and they are all different and very interesting. All of the museums welcome tour groups and field trips. Free of charge, but donations are appreciated.

## Hello to Everyone

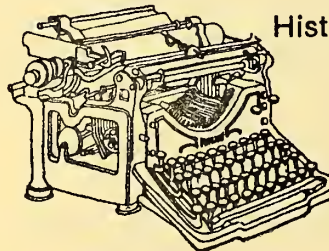
Since our last newsletter, all of us have been attending meetings, contacting people and promoting to have such a good attendance at all of ouring the Yellowbanks Territory. We are very forthcoming. Everyone who attends the meetings has a genuine interest in the economic development and preserving the history of the Yellowbanks Territory and we all work well together to keep the Yellowbanks Heritage Association strong and growing.

We look forward to seeing many of you during the summer season of 1992.

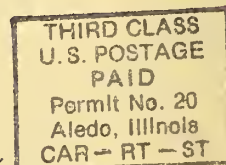
## From our President

My life has changed in a very interesting manner! I now work on the 'President Riverboat Casino' as casino cashier. My years of working in a bank have now paid off in a 'fun job.' The 'President' is the "big one" docked at Davenport, Iowa. It was built in 1924, and originally called the 'Cincinnati'. It was remodeled in 1936 and renamed the 'President'. Before coming to Davenport a year, it was one in a fleet of boats docked at St. Louis. The 'Tom Sawyer', 'Huck Finn' and the 'Becky Thatcher' remain docked at St. Louis.

R. R. 2 Box 225  
Aledo, Illinois 61231  
309 - 582 - 7551



Historically Yours,  
Barb Kelly

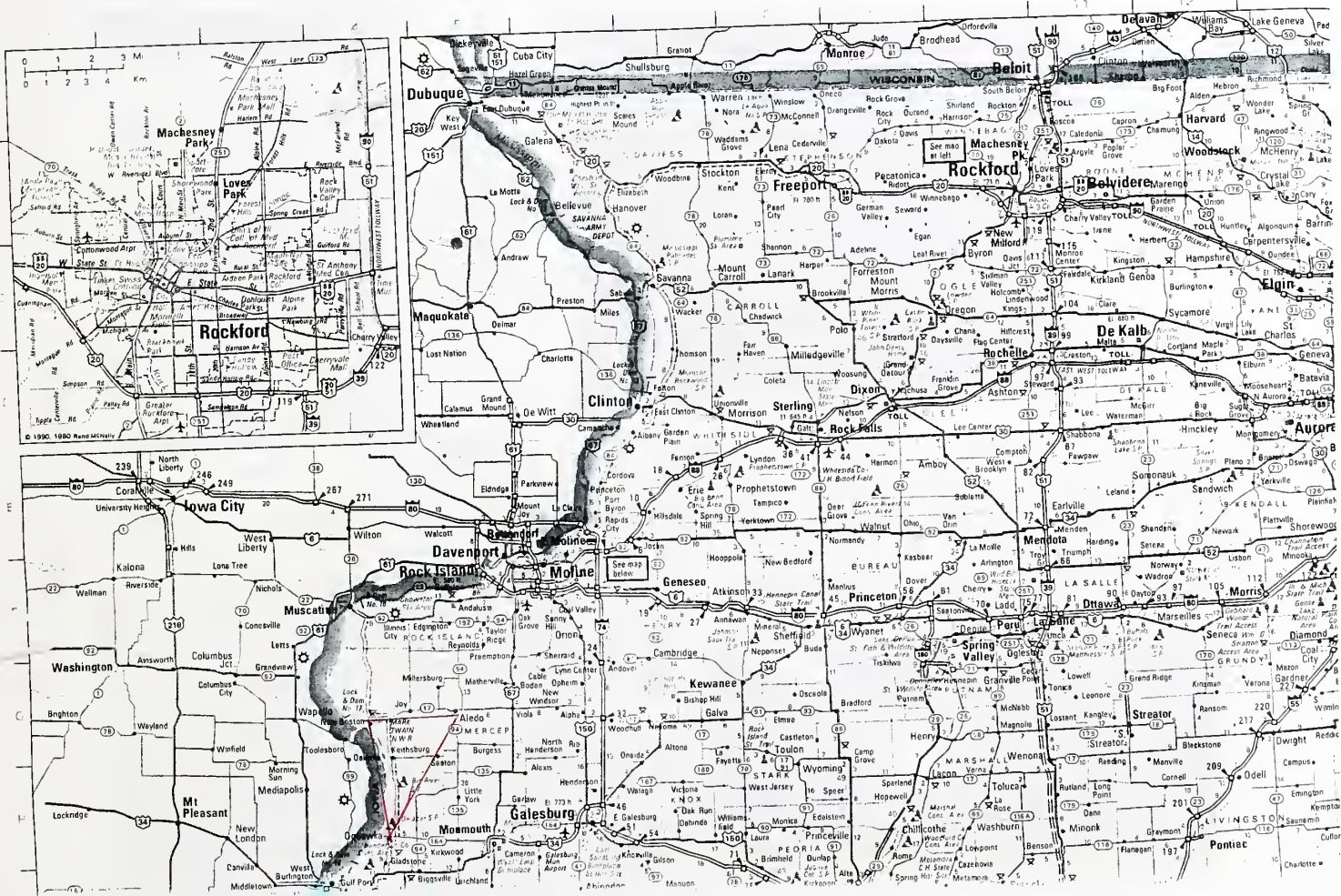


1004

Ruth Cook  
Lincoln Museum  
1300 South Clinton St.  
Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46801



110 miles from Rockford





## OQUAWKA GETS NEW HARD ROAD FROM MONMOUTH

Concrete Paving Nearing Completion—Road South to No. 8 Next Year

Placing Oquawka on the hard roads is the big feature of 1929 for that city.

The concrete paving, known as state road 94A, between Monmouth and Oquawka has been completed to within three and one-half miles of Oquawka and the remaining portion is now under construction and will be completed and paved by early fall.

Oquawka is to be connected with Route No. 8 next year, also. The right of way has been secured out from Oquawka as far as Henderson Creek and the state road commission is at work securing the remainder. Following this, the state will receive bids and let the contract for construction in 1930.

### Improvements.

Del Devore is erecting a fine new garage building on Schuyler street, on the site where the old Schlottzhauer livery barn stood for so many years. It is to be finished in brick veneer, and modern in every respect.

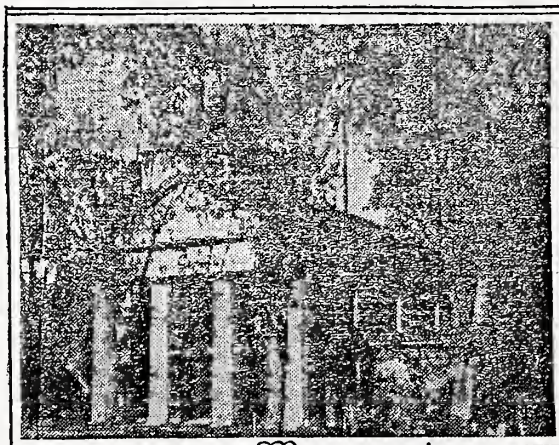
A Tourist park has been provided by the village and equipped with conveniences for tourists to camp, the same is kept up at the expense of the village, and no charges are made for use of the same. It is one block in size, and located on what was formerly known as the G. A. R. park and on a direct route to the Oquawka beach.

The difficulties under which the Hays Construction company, contractor for the Monmouth-Oquawka road, labored illustrate the need Oquawka has felt for a permanent all weather road. During the wet period of July, the Hays company tried for three days to get its big machines across the creek east of Oquawka and failed. It was necessary to take the machines back to Monmouth and ship them to Oquawka by freight.

### Bathing Beach.

Oquawka is one of the most scenic

## Old Court House at Oquawka Where Lincoln and Douglas Debated



cities in Illinois. It presents a bright, cheerful appearance and has a fine citizenry. The business men are of a new generation and they look forward to a splendid growth and development of their city.

Among the advantages Oquawka has are the tourist park and the bathing beach. The city has one of the finest bathing beaches on the river and about thirty cottages have been built for the summer colony. These cottages are owned mostly by Monmouth and Galesburg folks who love to spend the hot months along the fine old Mississippi.

### Owens Utilities.

Oquawka is another city that goes in strong for municipal ownership of the public utilities. It owns its own light plant which furnishes all the light and power for the town.

The town also owns its own water system and has installed new fire fighting apparatus. A new fire wagon and ample hose have been purchased and the department is capable of handling any fire that can start in its jurisdiction.

The court house at Oquawka is of front, reflects the architecture of the historical interest because of the fact early days. It is one of the few remaining court houses of its period and that it was the scene of one of the famous debates between Lincoln and Douglas, prior to the Civil war. This is being given the best of care so that it will be preserved for future generations.

## Oquawka—Looking Toward River





Oregon, Ill. - Sat. Aug. 16. - 1856

See angle p. 137



Paris, Ill.

Spoke In Paris Twice.

Lincoln addressed a large Fremont meeting in Paris, Edgar county seat, on Aug. 6, 1856. Two years later, on Sept. 7, during the course of his senatorial campaign tour, he spoke again in Paris, from 3 to 5 p. m.

Pekin, Ill.

Long Speech In Pekin.

When Lincoln was in Pekin during the course of his senatorial campaign, he stopped at the home of J. Wagoner. In the afternoon—that of Oct. 5—he was escorted to the courthouse square where, after being introduced by Judge J. M. Bush, he spoke most of the afternoon to a crowd of several thousand.

Ill. Lt. Journal  
6/30/36

Memorial  
Springfield  
ILL., (AP)—A  
to Abraham Lin-  
Mt. Pulaski, Ill.,  
be opened today  
anniversary of his

s courthouse that  
ed law cases while  
rider.

persons pilgrimed  
President's tomb  
tended gatherings  
emory.

y include an ad-  
n F. Chadwick, na-  
der of the Amer-  
d a talk from New  
Raymond Massey,  
tes Lincoln in a  
ay play.

## Lincoln Circuit Ride makes stop in Paris



Written by Denise Cravens

Thu, 04 Oct 2007

Following the same 8th circuit Abraham Lincoln once traveled, participants in the second annual Lincoln Circuit Ride made a stop in Paris Saturday afternoon.

The ride was partially sponsored by A.B.A.T.E of Illinois.

Local attorney Bruce Baber entertained the riders with a humorous talk on the types of cases Lincoln handled. The speech was held at the Edgar County Historical Society in Paris.

During his research, Baber was surprised to find out that many of the cases Lincoln took on were divorce cases.

"I never thought of Lincoln as a divorce attorney," said Baber.

He also mentioned "Breach of Promise to Marry" cases, which are still practiced, but extremely rare in the state of Illinois.

Following Baber's speech, the riders were invited to tour the Arthur House, paying particular interest in the Lincoln Room, which includes artifacts from the Edgar County Courthouse where Lincoln once practiced.

Many of the participants also picked up an inexpensive booklet available through the Edgar County Historical Society that recounts the cases tried by Lincoln in Edgar County as told by local residents.

Close Window



# Lincoln's stagecoach stop

A PLACE to take a few steps backward in time and dodge the slings and perils of Future Shock—at least momentarily—is a quiet, rural community near Springfield called Pleasant Plains. This weekend things may be a bit more lively than usual tho — there's a Quilting Festival featuring quilters and weavers as well as their wares, some of which date back 100 years.

If you make the trip—about four hours or 200 miles from Chicago—you'll no doubt run across the Clayville Stagecoach Stop, the big attraction in Pleasant Plains, about 12 miles west of Springfield on Ill. Hwy. 125. This is a true-to-life folk museum consisting of several buildings and a working farm.

Dating back to 1824 when the wayside inn was one of the first brick buildings to be constructed in the area, the historic stagecoach stop was a gathering place for a young lawyer named Lincoln who represented the owners, a family named Broadwell, and numerous Whig politicians. Originally called Broadwell's Tavern, it later was renamed Clayville Tavern when a small community began to spring up and took the name of the Whig Presidential candidate, Henry Clay.

Today, it's preserved in its natural state thru the joint sponsorship of Sangamon State University and the Clayville Folk Arts Guild. The collection of log and brick structures sprawls over several acres of lush quietude in rural America, much as it did when Henry Clay held court there.

ONE OF THE most popular structures in the complex is the Country Kitchen. Within these old walls one can satisfy the heartiest of appetites with real, old-fashioned flair. Pioneer smorgasbords, fish, shoe-fly pies, and sauerkraut crackers are a few of the home-made dishes made on the premises.

There is plenty to see in the complex. Guided tours are given daily [except Monday], starting with the stagecoach stop itself. The stop or inn is made of clay from the area and offers a peek at numerous period artifacts and furnishings within its classical-federal style walls. In addition,

are dedicated toward the preservation and promotion of a "living historical farm," you will find 11 "pioneers" [in the form of Sangamon State U. students] working on the premises just as tho it were still 1850. There is a craft shop and resident potter, a carriage shed, a blacksmith shop, a carpenter shop, a gift shop [old craft items for sale only] and two barns, which double as exhibit halls when the livestock is not using them.

There is no set pattern for the tours because everyone is simply going about their daily business. Pioneers weaving, splitting rails, repairing buildings, tending the horses, hoeing gardens [a good deal of experimental planting is done here] or maybe just lying on the porch of the inn smoking a corncob pipe.

Because of the emphasis on the living heritage of Clayville, and the craft-making that was an in-

tegral part of rural America, the old stagecoach stop hosts about 10 festivals each year on its grounds.

TOMORROW AND Sunday will be the Quilting Festival and demonstration. The purpose is not to sell [tho you can dicker with individual owners if you wish], but to further this old tradition.

Following this weekend's fest, will be the July 4 Old-Time Independence Day Celebration, wherein an old-time foofaraw of the midnineteenth century, picnicking and various skill contests will take place—all in the manner of the period preceding 1850. July 14 brings an Antique Flea Market; Sept. 21 & 22 a Rugmaking Demonstration and flea market; Oct. 12 & 13, the Tenth Annual Fall Festival. And of course, everyday except Monday, the tours and the pioneer dishes in the Country Kitchen.

*James Martin*



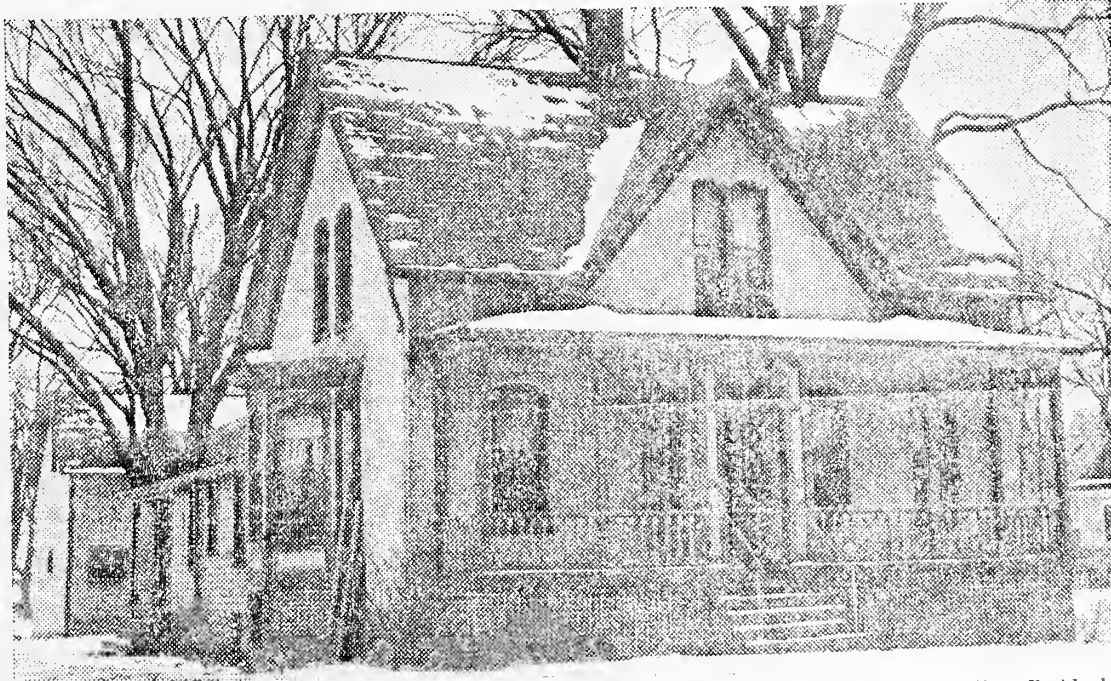
Outside the Clayville Tavern.



# Central Illinois

7/31/35

## *Lincoln Was Guest in This Princeton Home*



Residence formerly owned by the late Col. George H. Paddock at Princeton, which is one of the city's oldest homes. Upon two occasions,

Abraham Lincoln was a guest in the Paddock home, one of the occasions being on July 4, 1856 and another later.



Peoria

NOVEMBER 30, 1941

# The Parade of History

By ERNEST E. EAST

(Editor's Note: Ernest E. East, former Peoria newspaperman now associated with the Illinois State Register at Springfield, and past president of the Peoria Historical Society, will contribute an article to The Sunday Star each week, under the general heading, "The Parade of History." In this series, Mr. East will cover aspects of history of general interest to Peoria and central Illinois. Don't miss any of his authoritative articles.)

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 29.—Abraham Lincoln, then serving his first term as a member of the Illinois house of representatives, personally wrote a bill, subsequently enacted into law, which established a state road that crossed the Illinois river at the head of Peoria lake.

The time probably was late in 1834. Lincoln was a resident of New Salem and 25 years old. He was elected to the general assembly in 1834 and took his seat at the capital in Vandalia on Dec. 1 of the same year.

In characters much bolder than he used later in life, Lincoln wrote the bill with a quill or pen, using three pages of a folded sheet. The document is preserved in the state archives, a division of the state library. It was unknown to the Abraham Lincoln association until a few days ago when Dr. Harry E. Pratt, executive secretary of that organization, discovered it.

There was nothing in the document itself to identify the author and a researcher less expert than Pratt might have passed it by without recognizing the handwriting. The paper is yellowed and the ink somewhat faded but it bears the unmistakable imprint of Lincoln.

"An act to lay out a State Road from the Wabash to the Yellow Banks on the Mississippi," is the title of the bill. It was drawn in response to a petition of citizens of Peoria and Putnam counties, but the petition is missing from the files.

John Todd Stuart, of Sangamon county, and soon to be Lincoln's first law partner, was a member of the committee on petitions and reported out the bill on Jan. 1, 1835 (House Journal, page 271). The bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee consisting of Peter Butier of War-



ERNEST E. EAST

ren county, John Wyatt of Morgan county and William Brown of McLean county. The bill was passed by both house and senate and bears the approval date of Jan. 25, 1835.

The act is printed in the session laws of 1834-5. It contains five sections. The first provides that Patrick Owen of Knox county, Samuel Allen of Peoria county, and Robert Bird of Putnam county be appointed commissioners to lay out the road which was to extend from the eastern state line at a point west of Logansport, Ind., "thence westward to the nearest and best route to Alenton, at the head of Lake Peoria on the Illinois river, thence through the countyseats of Knox and Warren to the "Lower Yellow Banks" (Oquawka) on the Mississippi river. Other sections concern the manner of laying out the road, its maintenance and compensation for the reviewers. Members were to receive \$1.50 a day provided counties interested were willing to pay but expressly disavowed any liability on the part of the state to compensate the road viewers.

John Hamlin of Peoria was elected to the house at the same time Lincoln was. He resigned at a date not shown by the record and was elected to the state senate in 1836

Lincoln Questionnaire

-----

Name of town Peoria County Peoria State Ill

Date or dates when Lincoln spoke there Oct 16 - 1858

Has a marker or monument ever been erected to commemorate his address? yes

If so, when was it dedicated? Oct 16 - 1910

Is any literature referring to it, or a photograph of it available?

Page 77 - Lincoln in Peoria, by B.C. Bryner

Any further information such as donor, inscription on tablet, or other data of interest would be appreciated.





Your Town

## Pontiac house has direct ties to Abraham Lincoln

By Kevin Barlow | [kbarlow@pantagraph.com](mailto:kbarlow@pantagraph.com) | Posted: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 7:00 am

PONTIAC -- While on a visit on the night of Jan. 27, 1860, in the home of Pontiac resident Jason W. Strevell, Abraham Lincoln predicted he would be nominated for the vice presidency of the young Republican party.

Strevell thought his guest was setting his sights too low. And he was right, as on May 16, Lincoln was elected the head of the party and its presidential candidate.

The rest is history, so they say, and preserving it is the goal of the Livingston County Historical Society as it moves forward with plans to restore the last remaining house in the county with a known tie to Lincoln.

"We are very excited about the progress we have made and the direction we are headed," said Bob Sear, president of the historical society.

### Leading attorney

Strevell was a leading attorney in Pontiac after he settled in the city in 1855. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives twice and served four years in the Illinois Senate.

The property, 401 W. Livingston St., was purchased by a group of residents in 2008 when it was threatened with demolition. The Livingston County Historical Society has taken stewardship of the home and has a long-range plan for its restoration and future use. The goal is to have the house repainted in historically accurate colors and the exterior completed in 2012.

### 'Good start'

"We are off to a good start," said Donovan Gardner, a member of the society. "We have a long way to go, but our goal is to work on the outside of the house, because that is what people see first."

Members are working to identify the color of the house at the time of Lincoln's last known visit.

"We think it may have been red because, at that time, a lot of houses were painted red," Gardner said. "It's pretty obvious that the inside of the house was a dark green."

Also in progress is work on the windows, which are being removed and refurbished at History Wood and Window Restoration of Odell.

The society is accepting private donations and selling memorial bricks to help fund the project.

"We don't have a definite total on how much money we need to raise before we are finished," said Pontiac Tourism Director Ellie Alexander. "We have raised about \$24,000, but we need to get a lot further than that. But, we are really working hard and are so excited about the future."

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**WJCB**

## ILLINOIS SPOTLIGHT: Pontiac home Lincoln once visited being brought back to 1860's glory

KEVIN BARLOW The (Bloomington) Pantagraph  
September 20, 2012 - 6:53 am EDT

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PONTIAC, Ill. — A Pontiac historical landmark threatened with demolition just four years ago is now at the halfway point of a full-scale renovation.

"There may be a lot of work still to go, but the progress they have made this year has been substantial," said Pontiac City Administrator Bob Karls. "It's looking better every day."

The Livingston County Historical Society bought the Strevell House on West Livingston Street, the last known structure in Livingston County to have hosted Abraham Lincoln before he was elected president. After a speech at the First Presbyterian Church in 1860, Lincoln went to the home of Pontiac attorney Jason Strevell, and the two men discussed the upcoming presidential campaign, the state

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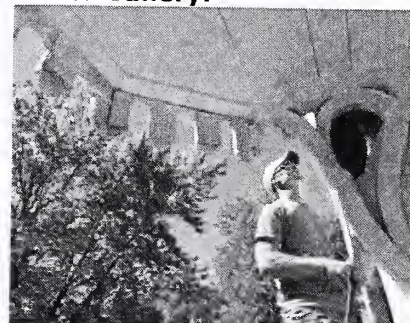
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of the Union and other important social and political issues of the day.

"Our goal is to restore it to the way it was when Lincoln was last here," said Mike Ingles, a member of the Strevell House Steering Committee. "But it's a slow process and it takes a lot of volunteer help."

The committee has worked to gather resources through cash gifts, donations of goods and services and the sale of commemorative paving bricks. Much of that money has been used to restore the exterior of the home, which is nearing completion. To assist with the restoration of the roof, Bob Landrus Roofing and Construction of Pontiac donated materials, and Landrus even donated his own time.

"Bob is very community-minded, and his generosity saved us a lot of money," Ingles said.

Ingles estimates work on the project is about 50 percent complete, and the focus will turn soon to the inside of the house.

Windows in the main part of the house were restored, and the trim that helps to define the house as being in the Carpenter Gothic Style was replaced or repaired.

Multiple layers of existing paint were removed to get the exterior surface down to bare wood. The exterior was painted colonial red with white trim, which is believed to be the color of the house when Lincoln visited.

The ultimate goal is to provide a home for the Livingston County Historical Society to store artifacts.

"Our next order of business is to put together a plan for the inside," Ingles said. "We haven't decided which room to do first, but we will probably start in the rooms where Lincoln was most likely to be in."

Tom Ewing, chairman of the restoration committee, said that even though much of the work now will move inside, the fundraising efforts will continue.

So far, more than 100 commemorative bricks have been purchased by philanthropic trusts, businesses and individuals. Each \$100 brick is engraved with a name or a message chosen by the donor, and installation of the bricks will begin this fall.

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"Bricks that are ordered before the installation begins will provide the greatest benefit because it costs considerably more for engraving after the bricks have been installed," he said.

The bricks will form a memorial walkway and will run from the city sidewalk to the front door of the house. Anyone wishing to purchase a brick should contact the city's tourism office at (815) 844-5847.

"We have been pretty successful with the sale of bricks, but we have a lot more work to do," said Pontiac Tourism Director Ellie Alexander. "We have made so much progress, and we want to keep the momentum going forward."

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Online: <http://bit.ly/TOYFup>

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Information from: The Pantagraph,  
<http://www.pantagraph.com>

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Princeton, Ill.

Sullivan, Ill.

**Brawl Averted In Sullivan.**

When Lincoln appeared to speak in Sullivan on Sept. 20 during his senatorial campaign of 1858, he found that his opponent, Stephen A. Douglas, was speaking at 1 p. m., so he postponed his meeting from 2 to 3 o'clock. Lincoln's supporters, however, escorted him to his meeting, interrupted Douglas before he had finished and a brawl was narrowly averted. *Ill. St. Journal*

6/30/36

Sterling, Ill.

**Was Sterling Rally Speaker.**

Lincoln spoke at a Fremont and Bissell meeting in Sterling on July 18, 1856. *Ill. St. Journal*

Polo, Ill.

**In Polo And Oregon.**

Lincoln spent the night of Aug. 15, 1856, in Polo, driving next day to Oregon with three friends. There he and John Wentworth addressed a large crowd in the public square. After the meeting he returned to Polo. *Ill. St. Journal*

THE TEXAS COMMISSIONER

**Spoke At Toulon In '58.**

Lincoln spoke at the courthouse square in Toulon on the afternoon of Oct. 8, 1858, at the time of his senatorial campaign. He was met by a delegation headed by T. J. Henderson which escorted him to the Virginia hotel. *Ill. St. Journal*

Taylorville, Ill.

**Hogs Disturbed Dignity  
Of Court In Taylorville**

The first Taylorville courthouse, which served from 1840 to 1856 when Lincoln traveled the Eighth judicial circuit, stood on pillars two feet above the ground. The space beneath

was a favorite resort for their grunts and squeals disturbed the dignity of proceedings in the room.

Lincoln Questionnaire

Name of town Princeton County Bureau State Illinois

Date or dates when Lincoln spoke there July 4, 1856

Has a marker or monument ever been erected to commemorate his address? A tablet  
has been placed in the library by the Princeton chapter  
of P.O.R.  
 If so, when was it dedicated? To Service

Is any literature referring to it, or a photograph of it available? No

Any further information such as donor, inscription on tablet, or other data of

Enclosure interest would be appreciated.

The place where Mr Lincoln made the 4th of July address was  
 in an unfenced timber and the spot cannot be located.  
 There was a difference of opinion & so no stone has been placed there



MISS ROSA JACKSON  
LIBRARIAN

Lincoln visited Rushville several times, but it is not possible to give exact dates, his first introduction to Rushville Ills was in the line of military duties. When he was <sup>23</sup> he responded to Gov. Reynolds's call for troops to march against the Indians who were on the war-path in the northern part of the state under the leadership of Chief Black Hawk.

The troops left Beardstown ap 27-1832 and marched to Rushville, where they went into camp north of town.

Lincoln was in Rushville several times when he practiced law. Following the customs of the times he traveled about from town to town and several times appeared as attorney in the Schuyler Circuit court. He was entertained in different homes.

RUSHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS

MISS ROSA JACKSON  
LIBRARIAN

Abraham Lincoln came to Rushville for the last time on Wednesday Oct. 20-1858. He was driven across country from Mt. Sterling, <sup>by Chas. H. Sweeney.</sup> There is a marker in the center Park to that effect.

The speakers stand was erected on the north side of the old court house, east of the door, Over 3000 attended this gathering.

That evening a reception was given by Mr. and Mrs. Roy

Copied from "Lincoln in Rushville"  
by  
Howard F. Dyson



Chicago, Illinois, June 10, 1890  
Dear Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. in relation to the matter of the purchase of the land for the proposed extension of the University of Chicago. I am sorry to hear that the matter is still pending, but I am sure that the University will be able to secure the land in due season. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Yours truly,  
John D. Johnston  
President of the University of Chicago

Herbert Wells Fay, of Springfield  
conceived the idea of marking the  
spot where Lincoln stood and spoke,  
and the suggestion was made to  
Leander Settle who solicited funds.

A granite boulder that was deposited in  
Schuyler county ages ago in the drift  
formation was set on a base of concrete.

Inscriptions

From this spot

Abraham Lincoln

Addressed the people of

Rushville

Oct 20, 1858

He also practiced law in the  
Court House which formerly  
stood on this spot.

Flag Day Thursday June 14th 1928  
Tablet was dedicated

Judge W. Montgomery of Quincy, made  
the



a brief address.

The tablet was unveiled by  
Donald Carter Stephens and  
Cloise Moore, great-grandson and  
grand-daughter of Alexander Little.

Mr. Little said he sent to you  
a picture.

Please excuse the way this is  
put together as I had to search  
for it. An account of the  
dedication was in the  
Rushville Times June 13  
and June 20 1928.

I would like the "Lincoln home."

Yours truly

Rose Jackson  
Librarian

## SHAWNEETOWN

BY STELLA PENDLETON LYLES

We have gathered here to pay honor and respect to an early historic town of Illinois down on the banks of the lovely Ohio, in Gallatin county, which was formed in 1808 by the territorial government.

The recognition of our historic towns and the part that they have had in the building up of our State is a part of the work outlined for the purposes of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution—which is at present the greatest national organized group of women maintaining patriotic ideals and law abiding endeavor, as well as promoting civic and educational plans for the welfare and stability of our nation.

The history of Shawneetown did not begin with the settlement as laid out in 1808, for long before it had belonged to France or Great Britain there had been Indian tribes there who ruled by fire and tomahawk. Different religions, political guardianship, customs and languages did much to cause conflict and confusion in law interpretation or enforcement. Friends and records tell of dramatic and tragical situations that followed.

It was the patriotic combination, and a determination to find permanent abiding places where institutions of liberty and freedom might be established, that led the Puritan, Cavalier and Scot-Ulster independent to become settlers of vision and enthusiasm around Shawneetown.

No land office in the Illinois territory was of more importance for honest-with-goodness Americans than the Land Office created by Congress at Shawneetown in 1812. Americans were then given an opportunity to throw off the shackles of an older aristocracy, or the burdens of slavery, forged around them in an environment of slavery which aroused antagonism within their minds.



in the old community at Rock river made famous by a determined war Chief.

The "Catherine" is in her berth in the sung harbor of the Kahlke Boat Yards where she was built. The writer has in his pocket the bill of lading for the new engine which is to be as a Christmas gift to her. The new engine is calculated to almost double her speed, and we are studying maps and calculating distances, for we hope to navigate next Summer, that part of Black Hawk's Mississippi which lies between Rock river and the mouth of the Missouri.

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NOTE—The crew of the "Catherine" for the above-mentioned Cruise was made up of Joe Meenan, fifteen-year-old son of Alderman Frank A. Meenan; John Henry Hauberg, twelve years of age, and the latter's father, the writer hereof, all of Rock Island, Ill. The cruise was June 22 to 29th, inclusive, 1928.

Shawneetown's adjacent territory possesses a variety of picturesque scenery including river bluffs and Indian mounds, valleys and dell, cliffs and cave, forest trees and flowering shrub, trailing vine and hidden fern, all to fascinate the visitor today as well as in the yesterdays of time. We know that those beauties of nature in a climate made sweet and the balmy air softened with southern breezes made Shawneetown an unusually attractive place for travelers to sojourn upon their western pilgrimages.

American settlers came from across the Ohio in ferry boats, or down the river in flotillas of flat-boats, carrying a few treasured possessions with them and then, after obtaining their certificates for bounty lands, they followed the old buffalo trace and Indian trail out to the woodlands where they built their cabins and established a home. Letters and journals of the early travelers are invaluable as a source of information about pioneer manners and customs of the daily life, for many of them spent interesting years around Shawneetown.

A review of Shawneetown could not be complete without looking closely into the lives of the Shawnee Indians who were around the little city many years after its formation, and had been there even before the coming of the white man with De-Soto and the Spanish.

The Shawnees told the early Frenchmen that they were of the Illinois nation—Men! They believed themselves to be stalwart men of superiority, and in the possession of a greater degree of friendship and hospitality toward other savage and warlike tribes. They were both feared and respected by other Indian tribes, and their influence was so extensive that they were early given the rank of men.

Much depended upon the white man living in peace with the Shawnees who roamed over the prairies and hunting grounds far and near. The Shawnee's settlements were upon the most strategic points of the rivers, and they were in a position to quickly obstruct navigation and prevent any shipment of valuable furs and pelts that the early traders and hunters might have had for Pittsburg or other markets.



The white man of the Wabash and Ohio early decided that the Shawnees were first in at a battle, the last out at a treaty, and always ready to capture the heart and home of a white man.

The Shawnees had not only exterminated the buffalo in southern Illinois, but were equally determined to barter away the lives of early settlers around Shawnee's town. In one of the early Indian Councils, prior to the Revolution, a large belt of wampum was sent to the Shawnee tribe and they were told "that the Indians did not intend to give up the land to the English, for that God had given the land long ago to them to live upon, and before the white people should settle the lands for nothing, that they, the Indians, would sprinkle the leaves with their blood or die—every man of the tribe in the attempt."

The Shawnees made further boasts of killing ten white men to the other tribes one, and under their celebrated chiefs they prepared to make a clean sweep of all river and border settlements and restore the Illinois country—the land of the buffalo, deer and wild turkeys to the Indian tribes.

The British government sent Colonel George Croghan, a most successful merchant and Indian trader, to investigate the Indian posts along the Wabash and Ohio rivers. He stopped at the present site of Shawneetown where his possessions were plundered, his party captured and he wounded by a tomahawk, upon one of his expeditions. He was taken across beaver ponds and swamps into thick forests and Indian villages, and on to the hunting grounds filled with buffalo, deer and bear. From there he said he passed on to well watered plains and fertile lands where hemp grew to a height of ten feet in an ocean of rich ground. Valuable coal deposits were also near the surface and he heartily recommended the wonderful land for English settlement.

His Journal gives interesting accounts of Congresses of war with the Indians, and we gather something of the metaphors and rhetorical effects of the eloquence of the Indians and their chiefs.

At one congress were gathered representatives from

eight Indian nations and twenty-two tribes, in Kaskaskia. Among the many Indian chiefs there who presented belts and made speeches to the Croghan party was a Shawnee chief, "La-wough-gua." It was then declared that "they had let slip the chain of friendship held by the King of Great Britain and the great chief of the Indian nation, that a high wind arose and raised heavy clouds over the country and almost put out the Ancient Council Fire, but the fire was again renewed, some dry wood thrown upon it so that the blaze might ascend to the clouds, and that all nations might see that they lived in peace and tranquillity with the settlers."

A few months later was held a great road belt convention. At that time Croghan presented the great Forest Chief, Pontiac, with a road belt as a token of the opening of a road from the rising sun to the setting sun which would be preserved throughout the country settlements; he hoped for a continuation of their works of peace as they had promised, so that the road be good and pleasant to travel upon, and all alike share the good blessings of the happy union, and that all children dispersed through the woods should be returned to the ancient settlements and better care be taken of the Council Fire that was again dressed up and promoting good works.

Each year there were increasing diabolical actions of the Indians and degraded white men that grew into such proportions that the courageous American soldier, later General George Rogers Clark, and his Kentucky company of heroic men, daringly effected a far reaching conquest over English forts and settlements, as also the Indians in the Illinois territory, and the foreign domination was forever ended. A national republic was established by our forefathers with principles of justice and liberty, and for the pursuit of happiness as the cardinal points, and whose continuation we and our descendants must defend.

The old Indian settlement at the site of Shawneetown also had a sacred and sentimental interest for the Indian brave. For ages his ancestors had climbed those rugged bluffs, worked at the salt wells, cultivated the fertile spots, fished in the streams, hunted every plain, floated in birch bark canoe



on the rivers, preserved the furs and skins of his long chase, and then came to the banks of the lovely Ohio, and peacefully rested in the summer's cool shade beside the pebbled springs, or danced in the shadows of the camp-fire when the cooling winds of winter came, or retreated into the thick forests where he forever listened for the plaintive love-call of his Indian maid.

It was there, after the glacial period, that the Indian Mound Builders from the South crossed the Ohio at this point in their advance, and where they carried the remains of their dead to the bluffs, and buried them within the several mounds that are found nearby. One of the largest mounds is called Sugar Loaf, and is located about five miles north of the little city. Its dimensions were taken, in 1855, and the area of the base is four acres and has a height of fifty-five feet. Smaller mounds are also found there, and have long been interesting sights to visitors and residents. A high grade of chipped flint, pottery ware, carved pipes, and implements have been found there in the stone-grave mounds of the Shawnees, that are identical in design and material with the mounds in other sections.

Upon the bluffs were also found evidences that the builders of the mounds had made salt from the salt springs nearby. Huge pans of hardened shell and clay had long ago been made, filled with salt water and carried up to the bare cliffs for the water to evaporate into salt by the strong rays of the sun. It may be that their medicine-men knew of the actinic properties of the sun, and then effected "miracle-cures" in their forms of sunworship.

The mound building Indians probably had occasions and circumstances arising in their career when it was necessary for them to build the mounds as sites for their villages, council house, medicine lodge and burial places, just as there was a history of the Europeans erecting moated castles, draw-bridge and portcullis. But the lovely Ohio holds us spell-bound, and we turn away from the mighty bluff and look down upon the beautiful water that softly and tenderly wends its way among the shallows and willows down, down below to

the great Father of Waters that in his greed has swallowed so much that is valuable,—but life goes on and ever on.

In the early history of Shawneetown, salt was the only product that could be obtained on government credit, for the price of it in critical times was well-nigh prohibitive. The salt wells of Gallatin county, of which Shawneetown is the county seat, were worked in two principal localities called Nigger Springs and the Half Moon Lick, and were within a few miles of the old settlement. They were known all over the country during the French rule. All salt springs, salt licks and mill sites were leased and worked under the authority of the government, and were very early a source of large income and financial benefit.

The salt wells were first leased at Shawneetown, in 1803, to a Captain Bell of Lexington, Kentucky, and it is thought he had worked them in previous years when there were many negro and Indian slaves in the district. Slavery in Illinois existed from the time Renault, a Paris banker, brought five hundred African negroes from St. Domingo and sold them to the French settlers, as early as 1720.

In 1812 the Shawneetown Salt District was created by Congress, and a reservation of an area about twelve by fifteen miles was made for leasing. In 1818 the Enabling Act granted the use of the Salines to the State, provided they were neither sold nor leased at one time for a longer period than ten years. There were few salt wells in the Tract, but a great many wooden pipes containing the salt water led in all directions to the several furnaces that were situated near the edge of the forests. The brine used required about two hundred gallons of water to make one bushel of salt. The water was placed in large metal kettles distributed in several rows over the fire-grates leading to the furnace fire. As the fuel was cut away in the edge of the timber and burned, the furnace would be removed and placed farther back into the woods, and longer rows of wooden pipes, joined together, that were made out of the smaller split logs of the trees, carried the salt water from the wells to the kettles.

It has been stated that there were from one to two thous-



and hands employed at the Reservation when the salt production was eighty to one hundred bushels per day. The workmen were chiefly negroes brought from the South, or the indentured servants and slaves of that political age. Later on the slaves were allowed to purchase their own freedom from the profits of their labor in the Salines, and many of them purchased land in accordance with the laws of that period.

Necessary buildings for the storing and shipping of the salt, as also accommodations for those who were employed, were all provided for in the government lease, along with many other demands and restrictions as to the depth of the wells and drilling, and number and sizes of kettles. The industry required many axe men, mule teams, drivers for carrying fuel to furnaces, many foremen, kettle-hands, coopers, packers, time-keepers, and there were hangers-on by the scores around the springs.

The saline springs were leased to many men in the early history, but in 1840 they were leased for ten years to John Crenshaw who became very wealthy with salt selling at \$10 per bushel at the wells.

The manufacture of salt was at its height in the 40's and 50's when more modern methods were used at Half Moon Lick. Larger boilers, engines and pumps were installed, and the old metal kettles gave way to huge shallow pans holding the salt water that were twelve to twenty feet in length, and extended in rows for a distance of sixty to seventy feet on the grates to the huge smoke-stacks of the furnace. Wood was no longer used for fuel as large deposits of coal had been found in the nearby hills.

From 1854 to 1873 the large plant was owned by Temple and Castle of Shawneetown, and a production of five hundred bushels per day was made. At last the tariff and duty rates were so high that the profits decreased. Artesian wells in other states made close competition, and before long the great primitive industry of early Shawneetown days gave way to productions of coal and iron which are found lying closer together there than in any other place west of Pennsylvania. Lumber and similar activities have taken the place of salt pro-

duction, but large streams of salt water flowed from the wells long after the salt works were abandoned. Six large coal mines were opened up near the little city. It is believed that there is great undeveloped mineral wealth abounding below the surface, and that prosperity will again flow into hands of enterprising persons.

In 1815 Gallatin county with Shawneetown as the chief town was the most populous county in the Illinois country. The present court house building is of brick but is not of fire-proof construction. It is not located in the customary square, but on Main Street where the streets in the town run parallel with the river and its levee, and with other streets running at right angles. Thus we have with Main, other streets named Poplar, Walnut, Spruce, Locust and Market, and crossing these are Gallatin, Monroe, Jefferson, Madison, Washington, Adams, Garfield, Grant and McKinley.

There are valuable records found in the Court House. There are records found there from 1813-1820 of the granting of ferry and tavern licenses and their rates, county claims, probate records, inventories and sale bills of early settlers. Another volume contains records of negro indentures, certificates of freedom, a register of negro children born of free parents, and a transcript of the famous case of "Venus," the negro slave from a New Orleans court parish, who was declared free by the Illinois courts, partly on the ground that she was living in Illinois when the State Constitution of 1818 was adopted and she had not been indentured as a negro servant. A later volume contains further records of negro freedom papers, copies of wills and manumissions, and certificates of birth. Lands and personal property are listed in tax books of 1846 with value and names of those residing within the county.

Marriage records are there from 1830, and records of officers elected, as also names of justices, constables, sheriffs and clerks. An early census there of 1810 gives an abstract wherein is given population, looms, produce, distilleries, tanneries, saw mills, grist mills, cotton gins, boat yards, sugar camps, spinning wheels, saddles, shoe-makers, coopers, black-



smiths, and the number and quantities of their productions.

Those records of wills, accounts and estates with their settlements, give reliable and important information as to the existence and distribution of wealth in Shawneetown at a very early date. They also show through the personal property items the degree of culture that had been attained, and suggest an important and equally interesting phase of social life for future historians and writers that tax-payers often object to list in a well-to-do community of any county.

There are records there that antedate the formation of the state, and go back to the time of the French government and tell us of a civilization that disappeared a century and a half ago in Illinois. We may learn out of a few volumes there how the Indians gave way to the English, and from which arose a great Anglo-Saxon state. Such records we dwell upon as to their importance, so little appreciated by the general public. They are priceless, for, if lost or destroyed, they can never be replaced.

As a whole the citizens of Shawneetown were from the southern states, and were straightforward, hospitable, kind and helpful to their neighbors. They had no grasping desire to possess more wealth than would bring ease and comfort to their families along with accomplishments and culture to grace their homes. Through their close communication by river transportation with cities of Wheeling, Pittsburg, Louisville, Nashville and New Orleans, they were much more fortunate than their sister settlements lying within the interior of a so-called wilderness of forest, prairie and river.

There were many politicians and office seekers living in Shawneetown prior to the 40's who desired political power more than wealth, and their influence was very great in state legislation when the male citizens could vote only for governor, sheriff and members of the legislature—all other officers were appointed.

Among the citizens prior to 1840 were families of attorneys, farmers, merchants, and physicians who formed the actual social structure of Shawneetown. Many of the women of that early period were educated daughters of distinguished

families of the South and East who had brought charm and poise into the western life. Although they might have been lessened in the possession of the material things of life, it may be proudly said that they were never lessened in the amount of influence that they wielded in their happy homes for good and right conduct. They led in the establishment of schools and churches in the community.

The negro question, on account of the great number employed in the Saline district of Shawneetown, occupied the attention of political men at a time when Edward Coles of Albemarle County, Virginia, had come into Illinois where he had settled his negroes that he had inherited in Virginia, but did not want nor know what to do with. In 1822 Edward Coles of Albemarle, had been elected governor of Illinois, as the second governor of the state after an active campaign, but by the men who respected and admired his ability, sterling character, and especially his anti-slavery views.

At that time the pro-slavery men were seeking for an amendment to the state constitution to allow slavery to exist within the state, for there was an article in the constitution of 1818 prohibiting slave labor after 1825. The campaign contest was bitter and personal, and newspaper articles of the only five papers published in the state were filled with contributions from the pens of those who were both for and against a slavery amendment. The controversy ended after many months by the people of the state voting in the general election of 1824 against any change in the constitution.

Governor Coles had been advised when a young man, by Thomas Jefferson, to come West and become a missionary for those who were oppressed by slavery, for "it had long been an encouraging observation upon his (Thomas Jefferson's) part that no good measure was ever defeated which, if duly pursued failed to prevail in the end." At another time Mr. Coles, son of a Revolutionary Army Colonel, was selected by President Madison to undertake a private mission for him to Russia. He accepted and sailed in the vessel, "Prometheus," which was the first man-of-war of our navy to sail up the Baltic Sea. At that time Albert Gallatin was United States Min-



ister to France and as his guest and in diplomatic capacity Mr. Coles met Louis XVIII and also General Lafayette in Paris, who had done so much to help the colonies in the American Revolution. These two worthy gentlemen had many mutual acquaintances and spent much time together that ripened into a friendship that was so satisfactorily renewed at Shawneetown on May 14, 1825, when General Lafayette was making a long tour of the States of the Union in America.

Governor Coles and the legislature invited the venerable General and his party to become official guests of the state at a time to be designated by the General, and who accepted the invitation. That day of the public reception given to General Lafayette and Governor Coles at Shawneetown, was the greatest public event that the young city-metropolis had ever experienced.

People of all stations, degree and color stood in a double line of welcome extending from the boat where the distinguished party landed upon a calico-covered path strewn with fragrant and lovely blossoms, over to the location and hospitality of the Rawlings tavern.

After the distinguished party was conducted to the tavern the General was introduced to the ladies-in-waiting and afterwards to the gentlemen gathered there. They all partook of a handsome collation at the Rawlings inn over which General Joseph Street presided. Toasts were given to the memory of Washington, Heroes of the Revolution—"tears for the dead, for the living brightest smiles," and others. Later a reception was given by the public in general upon the court house green, and a formal address of welcome was given to the General by Judge James Hall of Shawneetown, who later became State Treasurer.

The *Vandalia Intelligencer* contained an account of the reception at Shawneetown for the great General and his party. It said that when the steamboat "Mechanic" appeared there was a deputation from the committee of arrangement who waited upon the General and apprised him of the reception in Shawneetown, one of the two cities in the state honored by General Lafayette as a guest at that time.



RAWLINGS HOUSE, SHAWNEETOWN, WHERE GEN. LAFAYETTE  
WAS ENTERTAINED, 1825.





A salute of twenty-four guns was fired as the steamboat "Natchez" also approached the landing which was made, and the reception party passed between two lines of citizens from the water's edge to the Rawlings hotel. The reply of General Lafayette to the deputation meeting him was very brief and unpremeditated, but delivered in a voice which seemed tremulous rather with emotion than age when he "thanked the citizens of Shawneetown for their attention and said that he was under obligations to the people of the United States for their kindness to him." He further said "that he had long wished to make the visit to the United States, but circumstances prevented which he could not control. He wished every blessing might attend the people of Shawneetown and Illinois."

The Shawneetown *Gazette* said at the time of its publication that the citizens evinced by their respectful deportment the warmest attachment for the character of the truly great man, Lafayette, and that the General, although apparently too frail to support the fatigue of such an interview, received the congratulations of people with ease and cheerfulness and seemed deeply touched by their humble, though sincere display of national gratitude.

Later that day the distinguished party of General Lafayette with son and private secretary, returned to the steamboat "Mechanic" or "Artizan" and steamed away for the East. They passed into a very heavy storm the next day about 120 miles from Louisville, and that night the steamer "Mechanic" struck a snag. The General was sleeping soundly but was awakened and taken from his bed in the cabin about midnight, and carried to the side of an open boat where he was placed within, conveyed to the nearest shore at a spot where there was no house within sight, and where he spent the lonely hours of the dark night until transferred to the "Paragon" about nine o'clock the next morning. No lives were lost, but the party lost most of their baggage by the accident. The boat "Paragon" was bound for New Orleans but to show respect and gratitude to the venerable General it reversed its course and took the party on to its destination as so graphically de-



scribed by Lavasseur, the General's private secretary, in his journal.

During that visit of Lafayette to the nation, Congress appropriated two hundred thousand dollars and a township of land for Lafayette in recognition of his services to the nation nearly a half century before, in the Revolutionary War.

When the one hundredth anniversary of Lafayette's visit drew near, the State Historical Society wished to commemorate the occasion in some fitting manner. Shawneetown had been one of the two Illinois towns honored by a visit from Lafayette in 1825, and to her the honor again fell in 1925. The fine civic spirit with which the citizens of the city responded will also live in memory's pages, for they followed in faithfulness on May 14, 1925, the best accounts given of the Shawneetown reception of a century ago.

Many thousands gathered in the city for the re-celebration as arranged by the Gallatin County Memorial Committee with a grand pageant upon the river banks and city park and with music furnished all day by bands and groups of musicians. The government steamer "Kankakee" represented the steamer from which General Lafayette arrived at a point opposite Shawneetown. The principal address of the anniversary was made by Honorable Cornelius J. Doyle of Springfield, Illinois, former Secretary of State. His address was a masterly contribution of twentieth century ability, appreciation, and respect for our great nation and of the great men who have helped to establish liberty in the world.

Six families of the original reception committee of 1825 were represented by some of their descendants, dressed in the costumes of that period, and after the banquet, addresses and general reception, the ladies courtesied as in days of old and the gentlemen with due dignity bade farewell to the distinguished General and his party. The climax of the celebration came when a large company representing leading men and women of the old Gallatin County days, not only accompanied the Lafayette party to the boat but also boarded it for a river journey. Thousands of the day's visitors stood on the shore,

and all knew that the Shawneetown Centennial Celebration had been a success in honor of General Lafayette's visit.

A former soldier in the United States Army, Mr. Hugh McKelligott, represented General Lafayette as also were Messrs. Lambert, Marsh and Joseph Wiseheart, and Gregg of the pageant, formerly in the service. The impersonation of the son of General Lafayette, George Washington Lafayette, was by Mr. Thomas Peeples, a descendant of an old Shawneetown family, who has two sisters living in Beardstown, Mrs. Fenton Vandeventer and Mrs. Edmund Miller Dunn. Mr. Peeples responded to a toast during the banquet as follows: "Liberty and intelligence. We see their moral effects forcibly depicted in the present state of the American people." Other distinguished guests were impersonated by leading citizens.

Further enjoyment was afforded the guests when an Indian pageant was staged in the park by Shawneetown in the afternoon. There in pantomime was witnessed the red man's jubilee in the planting season, the camp-fire and Indian dance scene, the white men coming to purchase the Indian lands, the displeasure of the Shawnee chief, the final reconciliation and the smoking of the pipe of peace.

Another feature of the day's program was the singing by school children of the county, and the rendering of old songs from old-time hymnals by a choir of middle-aged gentlemen. After a symbolism of the twenty-four states of the Union in 1825, the last number of the Centennial celebration was a pageant representing the coming of Daniel Boone and his brother Joe into the county and the leading incident of the marriage of Joe Boone. The presence of the government steamer, and of the submarine chasers with their officers and crew, added very much to the success of the day.

The day was made even more complete by the visitors paying respect to the old landmarks within Shawneetown. Some of them are: First brick house location that was built by John Marshall, a Justice of the Peace; the second house, a large three story brick, was built by General Moses M. Rawlings where Lafayette was entertained, the gate through which



he walked, and the well from which he drank; the old Posey building is still standing, in which Robert G. Ingersoll had an office when he practiced law in Shawneetown; the place where General and Mrs. John A. Logan were married. It is the home of the first bank established in Illinois, 1816, and the splendid three story stone bank building erected in 1837 with its classic Ionic columns stands as a monument of perseverance and progress. Other sites give a do-you-remember air, as to Colonel Sellers, Mark Twain, General Michael Lawler, General James Harrison Wilson, and many other noted characters that lived in Shawneetown; and last but not least is that of John Eddy's house and the shop in which was published the first newspaper of Shawneetown in 1818 and the second of the entire state.

The history of the development of Shawneetown was like that of other settlements, but was probably of a longer duration in the element of lawlessness and wickedness that prevailed in river towns. There perhaps is no profession that knows, from insight and contact, any more about men and women of homely deeds as well as men and women of public activities, than that of a physician, and also about the less fortunate and undesirable elements in a community.

Dr. L. C. Taylor of Springfield, deceased, did much when he was President of the State Medical Society to effect the preservation of a history of early medical practice in the State, and to fit the lives of the pioneer physicians into their proper relations in the development of communities.

Ironical humor also was found in the unwholesome surroundings of the pioneer families where epidemics and disease prevailed. A constant source of ailment was malaria—the “ague” of the swamp lands, and about it runs a raven-like poem,

“And to-day the swallows flitting  
’Round my cabin see me sitting  
Moodily within the sunshine  
Just inside my silent door,  
Waiting for the ague, seeming

Like a man forever dreaming  
And the sunlight on me streaming  
Throws no shadow on the floor,  
For I am too thin and sallow  
To make shadows on the floor—any more.”

Among physicians of passing notice in Shawneetown of early years was a Dr. Smith, born in Kentucky in 1815. His father, a Methodist minister, died when his little son was six years old. The boy received his desire to study medicine from his mother who was a physician, and he also had an older brother who practiced medicine. After such environment all of his life, and medical study, he located in Shawneetown.

The Shawnee Indian tribe lived in the vicinity as early as 1720, and some were in the vicinity until after 1806. Their practice when ill among themselves is of much interest, for it involved visits and dances around them by their medicine men, priests and music, and also friends, and they treated wounds and dislocations with remarkable success.

One of the first physicians to practice the art of medicine in Shawneetown was Dr. Alexander Posey, the seventh son of General Thomas Posey. He was born in Virginia in 1794, and died in Shawneetown in 1840. The inscription on his tomb states, also, that Dr. Posey in “his efficient honest career was adorned by modest merit and amiable manners, by scientific attainment, and by able and skilled discharge of his ancestral duties.” He was ordained for the ministry before he received his medical degree in Philadelphia. He was a member of the reception committee which entertained General Lafayette in 1825 in Shawneetown.

Dr. Joseph Johnson and his son, Dr. J. H. Johnson, were announcing in 1842, in the Shawneetown papers, that they were there as surgeons, lecturers, and physicians, and would give special attention as instructors to students of medicine with the intention of organizing a medical college there.

A study of early physicians in Shawneetown show that they were of a courageous type. Dr. Peggy Logsdon lived



below Shawneetown on a small farm. She was brave and had to know all snake-bite cures for the wilderness around her. She was often, and necessarily, one of the first to greet the newest comer into that world of lawlessness around Shawneetown. Usually she traveled on horseback, but when her patrons literally called over to her from across the river on the old Kentucky shore she used a skiff or canoe, and no storm or water-stage ever stopped her. However, her skiff was gone one dark night when the call came. Undismayed, she found a log with a branch still upon it. She took off her clothes, tied them in a bundle high up on the branch, then pushed ahead of her the log and thus crossed the Ohio river. On reaching the Kentucky shore she put on her dry clothes and hurried along in the dark to her patients in a cabin within the woods, who were anxiously awaiting her coming. Dr. Logsdon reared a family of several sons and daughters who were independent and industrious, and it is related she held the esteem and regard of all who knew her.

Dr. E. R. Roe was an early medical man of Shawneetown, but after ten years there he gave up the practice of medicine and gave his time to research in geology and literature, as also a lecturer and soldier. His prize serial story was the "Virginia Rose" written in 1852, and was based on facts and traditions that he gathered about Cave in Rock, the popular excursion point for camp meetings, as also the earlier rendezvous of thieves and murderers who lured the unwary from the river boats into the hidden caverns, not many miles away from Shawneetown. Dr. Roe added much to his collections of natural history while there, and later in years he lived in Springfield, Jacksonville and other places.

One of the prominent physicians Dr. John Reid, was practicing before the twenties of the last century in Shawneetown, although his large home was about five miles west where many Indian camps were located. When in danger of Indian raids his home was used as a fort by the white neighbors. One day his wife had bathed her baby-boy, dressed him in a dress with short sleeves, low neck with bright shoulder ribbons, and then put him in the cradle. To her

amazement and consternation while she was alone in the house a young Indian squaw with a papoose on her back came into the house, and seeing the white and clean baby in the cradle she quickly exchanged it for her dirty baby that she left in the cradle. The squaw ran away with the clean white baby muttering all the while "Me swap papoose." When Dr. Reid returned home he found his frantic wife and after telling him about the outrage he calmly advised her to clean up the dirty papoose, dress it in pretty clothes and to be quite certain to tie on a lot of bright ribbons, and then they would take the clean little papoose to his mother. The story runs that Mrs. Reid had the Indian baby quickly shining like a copper kettle, and soon she, the Indian baby and Dr. Reid found that a band of Shawnees from Kentucky had pitched their camp on the Illinois side. They hurried to the camp and when the young squaw saw her clean baby she instantly dropped the white child with a thud upon the dirt, and again swapped papoose, but happier then with her own baby. To Mrs. Reid's surprise the squaw brought her a present before they left the camp, and upon opening it she found it proved to be a warm little coon-skin to wrap her baby in. Dr. Reid made Shawneetown his home and lived there to an old age in the 30's. He was in later years associated with his son, Dr. John Reid, Jr., who when grown studied medicine and practiced his profession in Shawneetown.

A picturesque and romantic Shawneetown is also her inheritance. Along the river banks and bold rugged bluffs are found a varied flora and fauna that have attracted travelers and scientists far and near. The magnolia and mistletoe, poplar and oak, cypress and pine, holly and vine are all there for the Druids of a modern age to gather at their shrine. Much is being done everywhere to conserve and preserve the unusual gifts of nature, and we trust the days will again come when the Salines, the Mounds, the Caves and the Battery Rocks will be known all over the country.

In holiday glee the citizens looked forward each year to the boat excursions upon the lovely Ohio. Captains of the palatial passenger boats vied with one another to make their



line the most attractive. Stewards and maids were equally solicitous for the care of the private or special parties. Lights and shadows added to the picturesque effect, for there were lovely ladies everywhere to be protected by men who were gentlemen. In a shadowed cabin corner, in earlier years, were the river gamblers in slouch hats, drooping mustache and long frock coats furtively watching for the victim, who in the dark hours of the night may have counted that his last,—for honor's code bade him to be at the duel-place at break of day.

Negro roustabouts were everywhere, while the deck-hands swung their heavy bales of freight while they weirdly chanted and droned their levee songs.

The leaping, laughing and lapping waves were at times ferocious, and precious lives were lost and hidden beneath the dark waters, when steam-boats were wrecked by boiler explosions, sand-bars, collisions, or other accidents bringing great financial loss of foodstuffs, grain and other valuable freight entrusted to the boats' care.

Gallatin county was one of the three counties, out of fifteen within the state, that was entitled to three representatives in the convention at Kaskaskia to form a state constitution during the summer days of 1818. Their names were Michael Jones, Leonard White and Adolphus F. Hubbard, all prominent men in political and business life of Shawneetown affairs. Thirty-three men were gathered at Kaskaskia who were representatives of pioneer fore-fathers in a contribution to the Nation—the State of Illinois. Those men made their way over prairies, through woods, and by Indian trails and buffalo trace, to meet in Kaskaskia—that historic town which has long since been buried within the Mississippi floods. Bricks were brought from Pittsburg by boat down the Ohio, and overland from Shawneetown, to build the first capitol building at Kaskaskia, it has been said, and was known as a fine old building sixty years after the capitol was removed in 1820 to Vandalia. The seat of government was again removed in 1836, by vote of the Legislature, to Springfield, Illinois.

A quotation from a D. A. R. magazine has a fitting conclusion (for Shawneetown):

“Have you considered what I represent?  
I’m the blood, the tears, and the hopes and prayers,  
The struggles and privations and longings and cares  
Of those men and women of high moral worth  
Who founded the greatest Republic on Earth,  
In short, I’m the heart and the brain and the might  
Of a God-loving people who battled for right  
So accord to me always the highest respect  
For I’m yours to honor, defend and protect.”

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Sources of material: Transactions, Journals and Collections of the Illinois State Historical Society; rare old newspaper files and volumes in the Illinois State Historical Library. Interviews with Miss Osborne and assistants, Mrs. Macpherson and Miss Phile.



## **SARAH LUSK MARKER UNVEILED AT GOLCONDA, ILLINOIS**

BY MADGE TROVILLION

On July 4th, 1928, a marker was unveiled at Golconda, Illinois, in memory of Sarah Lusk, pioneer woman, and founder of Golconda.

The marker stands in the northeast corner of the court square facing Main street, and consists of a large native boulder with bronze tablet bearing the inscription:

### IN MEMORY OF SARAH LUSK

The brave pioneer woman who founded the town of Golconda, first called Sarahsville, a century and a quarter ago.

She established the first ferry across the Ohio river at this place which she operated with the aid of her young son and a faithful colored woman.

Her rifle was always at hand to protect the passengers from the dangers that lurked on every side.

Erected by

The Civic Club of Golconda

1928.

The idea of erecting the marker was conceived by Mrs. C. A. F. Rondeau and carried out by the Golconda Civic Club. The unveiling ceremonies were in charge of Mrs. George T. Kowalsky, vice president of the club, and were opened with a trio, followed by the presentation of the marker to the city, by Mrs. L. S. Barger.

The tablet was unveiled by little Alice Jean McCoy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCoy, and sixth generation of the pioneer McCoy family. She is directly descended from Ezekiel McCoy who came to Golconda in 1807. Garlands were placed on the boulder by Miss Josephine Crist and Miss Chris-

The Shawneetown *Journal* looked upon the selection of Springfield for the state capitol with hearty approval. In one of its issues that year it said: "The Legislature has wisely settled the question of the Seat of Government which is now permanently located at Springfield, and not only for its situation in the heart of the richest part of Illinois \* \* \* we apprehend that it will meet the entire approbation of the State." A year later the Shawneetown *Voice* states that "the State House Building plans had been changed to substitute stone for brick, and that would increase the cost, but it presumed that since Springfield was to be the permanent seat of government and that Illinois is entitled to a fine building, it is believed that the people and the Legislature will be indulgent if the work is not done too extravagantly." That was in 1837, nearly a hundred years ago, when the stone quarried for the building was secured between 1837 and 1841 from a farm out on Sugar Creek at one dollar per load, and then hauled a distance of seven or eight miles on wagons pulled by ten or twelve oxen when the roads were so bad, wet, swampy and rough, that for many years later there were large blocks of stone lying along the road where the stones had been thrown from the wagons, and the drivers had no means of replacing them on the wagons.

We cannot refrain from giving reverent attention to that rugged old stone building that was the State Capitol down on the Court House Square, that in classical line and remarkable beauty enshrouded sacred utterances from the lips of statesmen that have become national in their effect. The old State House, now remodeled into the Sangamon County Court House, remained the State House until 1876 when the Capitol was removed into its present building.

Another event of interest is that the Directors of the Bank of Illinois in Shawneetown loaned \$5,000 in 1838, for improvements upon the McKendree College at Lebanon whose chief benefactor had left the battlefields of the War of the Revolution for the ministry and later came to Illinois and began the building of his college in 1828.



The Bishop welcomed women students on the same equality as men students, although the president and his chief assistant, a woman, received only \$25 each month for their first year's services as instructors.

It was the old territorial legislature of 1816 that passed an act incorporating the Bank of Illinois at Shawneetown with branches at Kaskaskia and Edwardsville. Its charter was extended from time to time in order that its affairs might be legally carried on. Hard times, and business failures were the rule in the 40's, and later a private company purchased the Bank of Illinois, but its business extended all over the state.

There was also established in 1820 a State Bank at Vandalia with branches at Shawneetown, Edwardsville, Brownsville and Palmyra, by the State Assembly. This bank of no capital, no security of its loans and note issues, was regulated and managed by the Legislature.

Banking laws and legislative action caused confusion, and even mortification, during the state-panic era to creditors, stockholders and the public. The distinguishing points between the two banks at Shawneetown, the State Bank of Illinois and the Illinois Bank of Shawneetown, were very close and even the legislative acts in earlier years were not always understood concerning the institution!

Mr. Thomas Ridgway removed to Shawneetown when six years of age and there made his home until his death in 1897. He was a popular merchant, politician and banker. His father had died when he was four years of age and his mother died when he was fourteen. His only attendance in a private school was one year added to the splendid early teachings of his mother, but his education was obtained in the school of experience. In 1845 he started in a mercantile business at the age of nineteen and the firm was known as Peeples and Ridgway, and became one of the best known in southern Illinois. These partners closed out their business after twenty years, and in 1865 organized the First National Bank of Shawneetown of which Mr. Ridgway was President after the death of Mr. Peeples in 1875. Mr. Ridgway was elected State Treas-

whereabouts of a new town was lost, for Judge Hall tells us that in 1830 a consignment of goods for Beardstown, Illinois, was landed by mistake at Shawneetown where they remained for sometime, as the people of Shawneetown had not been apprised as to where Beardstown was. They knew the location or position of Beard's Ferry on the Illinois river, but were surprised to learn that a town had suddenly sprung up and started into existence before the people on the Ohio had known its name.

Shawneetown has always heartily responded to all patriotic calls, but she has suffered most disastrous losses from the ravages of terrific Ohio river floods. The flood of 1883 resulted in the high waters rushing over the banks and into the streets of the little city and rising until all but twenty-eight out of six hundred houses were flooded to the second story rooms, while the mad waters rushed to a depth of fifteen feet on Main Street. At that time the levee construction that had been built for protection at a great expense was almost entirely destroyed. Fifteen years later, in 1898, the Ohio again was on a rampage and rapidly inundated the entire city by the waters breaking through the levee again, and at that time there was a loss of twenty-five human lives. The inundation continued for several weeks, of homes and industries. So critical was the suffering and so great was the forced shutting-down of flooded business quarters, that again the State government and other institutions contributed tents, food, clothing and other necessities for immediate needs. After the 1898 disaster Shawneetown's safety was again assured by the United States reconstructing the levee system on a very extensive and substantial scale, which is believed will give adequate protection against any similar overflow of water.

There is a government gun-boat now stationed on the river at Shawneetown to effect any rescue or aid when the waters rise to a depth of forty-six feet, while a depth of fifty-three feet will be required before the levee will have an overflow. The last dangerous flood was that of 1913, but the levee banks were blasted by the government boats to give additional safety to the little Illinois historic city on the Ohio banks.



River navigation is again receiving much attention for dependable transportation, and it is reasonable to expect that Shawneetown will have her share of prosperity and progress.

Everything has its nature to fulfill, and it is our mission in life to develop that which gives life, nourishment, shelter and comfort. That essence of life within us makes us what we are although it makes each of us different from another, but out of a humane, honest and intelligent plan we ought to be able to protect what has been given to us and know what is in us for life—our Nation in America.

We pass on to Westwood—the last resting place of the citizens of Shawneetown that has been so beautifully made within the beauties of all nature, and with its perpetual fund for a future continuation of its remarkable regulations, as provided for in its charter.

Among the many tomb-homes there is that of General Thomas Posey, born in Virginia in 1750, and died at the home of his son-in-law, General Joseph Street, in Shawneetown in 1818. He was an officer in the American War of the Revolution, and we are soon told in Shawneetown where we may see the old silk and linen flag that General Posey is supposed to have had with him on many battlefields. The old flag now is tattered and frayed from its long period of proclaiming victories and liberty, but every pure star of the thirteen stars is clear and distinct on that blue field of faith, and not one star was ever discolored by a traitor's hand upon that flag. We believe that all of Shawneetown would respond heroically if that old priceless flag is ever endangered, as it rests within its frame for further protection at the Robinson Drug Store in Shawneetown.

In every war and in every emergency Shawneetown has faithfully responded, and after the World's Wars those who returned have shouldered the civic responsibilities and duties all along the way in the land of—men!

They of the spirit of *Shawnee* Town and of Shawneetown, the old historic river city, were tolerant of their neighbors, they were reared in the atmosphere of a religious life and considered all as God's children of the Universe.

urer in 1874 and was a Director of the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago for several years. He was one of the promoters of the Beardstown-Springfield division of the Baltimore and Ohio southwestern system into Shawneetown and was its President from 1867 to 1874. For nineteen years he was a Trustee of the Southern Illinois Normal School at Carbondale, resigning in 1893, and dying four years later after giving a life time of healthy and fine service to his community interests.

Proceeds from public lands for educational growth were often diverted into other measures in the State, and public school education was of slow development, although there were many private schools and colleges that the youth of Shawneetown attended.

Shawneetown is not only the railroad terminal of the Springfield branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, but it has a branch of the Louisville and Nashville road. With that north and south system it was inevitable that she should prosper by her location as a river shipping point, as well as receive great shipments of lumber, coal and farm products from the interior parts of the state, centered there for further distribution. Mills, foundries, machine shops, good schools, newspapers, fine churches, two banks and other enterprises all stood forth in worth while endeavor and for the early success of the little city.

We have seen how closely politics and trade were connected with Shawneetown's economic and commercial endeavors, and these conditions were found in all city growths at that time. There are interesting stories and records of Legislative action of that age of Internal Improvements, but they are typical of the turning of any wilderness into a center of population, and the enactment of laws for the development of the enormous latent possibilities.

Out of the long period of financial depression came legislation and real action that developed canals, rivers, railroads, schools and other improvements in which Shawneetown was vitally interested as a strong pioneer banking location.



Shawneetown was the fortunate place to come into possession of the second newspaper edited and published in the state, in 1818. It was in the summer of that year when Henry Eddy of Vermont started from Pittsburg with a printing outfit on a flat-boat. The boat was stranded on a sandbar at Shawneetown and the citizens upon learning that Mr. Eddy was a lawyer and an editor, then persuaded him to locate in their town instead of going on to St. Louis where he had intended.

Mr. Eddy unloaded his printing outfit and in September, 1818, he is said to have issued the first number and called it the "Shawnee Chief." The name was changed to the "Illinois Emigrant" and shortly after it became the "Illinois Gazette," and was published until 1830. It was a most vigorous production after 1820 with Judge James Hall as co-editor. Weekly newspapers have always continued being published in Shawneetown, and it is an interesting chapter in Illinois history to learn of the leading part Shawneetown newspapers took in all parts of the state. Mr. Eddy later became a prominent politician. He died in 1849 and is said to have been a walking library as he never forgot anything that he ever knew whether in law, poetry or literature.

#### "A SONG OF MIRIAM" TO GRACE

You're aging, Grace, else retrospect  
Would not such mirage lights reflect  
On realm of bondage, whence we trekked:  
And glories of the Promised Land  
Assign to lean Egyptian strand.  
Hardpan soil and gullied hills;  
Sand fleas, mosquitoes, ague chills;  
Overflow and drouth locked rills;  
Uncouth ways, quaint dialect;  
But virtues stern and circumspect.

'Neath dogwood, brier thickets grow.  
And fiends from out deep shadows, throw

Barbed Spanish bayonets. While blow  
Clouds of weed pollens on each breeze  
That make one choke and cough and sneeze.  
But with it all, I must allow,  
That e'en from then, clean down 'till now,  
Since all creation gave man birth,  
No finer folk have walked the earth.

—St. Gamo Kedentry.

The above quotation illustrates that the art of a journalist is to say that which is courageous, interesting and true in a few words.

This Sangamonian poem of word painting appeared in a recent Sunday edition of a Springfield newspaper, and it delineates very understandingly and reminiscently our river town.

Newspapers of the old Shawneetown days had correspondents who added variety and interest to their columns by writing essays, stories and poems under assumed names to conceal their identity but not to conceal interest in the day's affairs.

Shawneetown was for many years the chief port of entry for emigrants, travelers or freight coming down the Ohio or across from the South, but the newspaper editors cared but little for what they might have contributed to the news of the paper—the editors were most interested in the politicians of the state and the things for which they stood in the Assembly—and it meant bigger money for the publishers. Their source of income was largely from the public printing of laws, treaties, and government reports of different departments, as also campaign speeches of candidates.

Advertisements consisted chiefly of taverns, whiskey, townsites and runaway slaves. The *Shawneetown Gazette* made frequent appeals for money, either in prose, verse or poetry and subscribers were praised, lectured or denounced in accordance with their response. Money was scarce for the daily needs of printer or pioneer, and the Shawneetown publishers announced that they would receive in payment for sub-



scriptions and advertisements any clean linen and cotton rags, and also accept bacon, pork, tallow, beeswax, feathers or deerskins.

Previous to 1805 the settlers and travelers had followed the picturesque and winding land traces that had ages ago been worked out by the buffalo, and the Indian trails along hillsides and across hollows and streams to the settlements beyond—sometimes afoot, other times by buggy, wagon or horseback to the fertile prairies and hunting grounds.

Much later the hollows and swamps were improved by sections of the plank roads and bridges built by appropriations from the Assembly for that purpose, and greatly aided the farmer to get his produce to market at Shawneetown where it could be shipped in other forms down the river. We might add here that the era of universal concrete road-building has reached Shawneetown. It has done much to follow up pioneer trails, for there is an increasing desire to see and learn of the loveliness of our beautiful state out of nature's generous distribution, and also that our historic sites are visited and the faithful men and women of pioneer days are again honored and remembered.

No stage roads or mail routes were opened until 1805. The first mail route was established in that year from Vincennes to Cahokia, the next year, 1806, the second route for mail was from Shawneetown to Vincennes, while in 1810 another route was formed from Shawneetown to Louisville. These routes were at times impassable and for weeks the mail was carried only twice per week in bad weather, while no promptness was assured for many years over the mail routes.

Freight transportation was even more uncertain and early newspaper publishers were frequently at great disadvantage by being so far away from the eastern supply-source of paper and ink that had to come down the Ohio in flat boats to Shawneetown. In low water or high water, no winds or hard winds, there was sometimes a delay of several weeks. Slow transit, carelessness of boat employees in handling supplies and freight, all figured in the delays of the early settlers receiving news or supplies from the outside world. Once the

# SHELBYVILLE TO HONOR LINCOLN'S MEMORY MONDAY

GRANITE BOULDER TO BE  
ERECTED WHERE LINCOLN  
DELIVERED FAMOUS

SPEECH *2-11-1923*

*24* (State Register Special Service)

Shelbyville, Feb. 10.—Lincoln's one hundred fourteenth birthday will be celebrated at the court house in Shelbyville on Monday at 1:30 p.m. A granite boulder, has been placed where he stood, June 15, 1858, when making a speech for freedom in our territories. This speech here is supposed to have been the first he made on that (then) most exciting subject.

The speech was in conjunction with one by the late Judge Anthony Thornton, a dear friend of Lincoln's. Judge Thornton will also be honored Monday. Bronze tablets in memory of each of the men will be implanted in the rough granite boulder where Lincoln stood in the square that is now named for him.

A fitting program has been arranged. The principal speaker of the day will be the Hon. B. M. Chipperfield, a man extremely well versed in the events of Lincoln's life. There will also be music during the program. The Shelby county board of supervisors are backing this program.

Former Senator George D. Chaffee, with the help of the supervisors, has prepared and had printed a beautiful pamphlet, with a dozen fine halftone pictures, the speech of Judge F. Dove, delivered on February 12, 1922, and Mr. Chipperfield's oration.

A large number of persons are expected to attend on Monday and honor these two

Rushville, Ill.

Shelbyville, Ill.

## Spoke In Rushville.

Lincoln spoke in Rushville during his 1858 senatorial campaign on the afternoon of Oct. 20. Admirers and old friends thronged the mansion of W. H. Ray, whose guest Lincoln was that evening. *See. H. Jones*

## Debated At Shelbyville, *8-9-36*

*901. State Journal*  
Lincoln took part in a debate under Democratic auspices in Shelbyville Aug. 9, 1856. S. W. Moulton opened with a Democratic address and challenged Lincoln to answer his arguments, which Lincoln did in a three-hour speech.





SHELBYVILLE. ILLINOIS, MAY 7, 1931

*Shelby  
Leaders*



*County*

### A LETTER

From Memorial and Peace Day, 1931 Number of State Public Instruction

BY B. J. RADFORD

B. J. Radford, 92 years of age, resides in Eureka, Illinois. He was at one time a professor in Eureka College. Cynthia Camp attended Eureka College at the time that Mr. Radford was one of the professors. Under date of March 16, 1931 Mr. Radford wrote with his own hand a four page letter to Mrs. Cynthia Camp Brasfield. The handwriting is excellent, the punctuation and English are faultless and the subject matter full of interest. A copy of the letter follows:

TO MRS. CYNTHIA CAMP BRASFIELD,  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

Woodford county, Illinois was organized in 1841. Its first county seat was Versailles, a village now off the map. Here the first circuit court was held in September of that year. About a dozen lawyers attended—a remarkable group for a pioneer settlement. The presiding judge was Samuel H. Treat, later Justice of the Illinois supreme court. Among the lawyers were David Davis, of Bloomington, later judge of the 8th judicial circuit, an associate justice of the United States supreme court and afterward United States senator from Oregon; John T. Stuart, of Springfield, a member of Congress; and, Abraham Lincoln.



My father-in-law, Captain Wm. S. Magarity, was the Sheriff. One afternoon a case was called in which Lincoln was an attorney. He was not in the room. The sheriff found him out in the yard in a game of quoits with three neighboring farmers. When told that he was wanted in court he dropped his horseshoes and not stopping to put on his coat or button his collar he came in and took up the case. When it was disposed of he went back to his quoit pitching.

In 1844 the county seat was removed to Metamora, and for some years Lincoln attended the sessions of court there, making several rounds a year of the 18 counties on the 8th judicial circuit of Illinois. The village had two taverns—two-story frame buildings. One year my father was detained there as a grandjuror for about a week. On his return home he told us of one of "the most remarkable men that I have ever seen; a lawyer from Springfield, named Lincoln." This was father's account of him.—"In the evenings the guests from both taverns would gather in the barroom of the tavern where Lincoln put up, to listen to his narratives and anecdotes, and we farmers, who think we must be abed by nine o'clock at home, sat up there night after night 'till 12 or 1 o'clock to hear him talk." Lincoln was not famous then, but those level-headed pioneers were simply captivated by his personality. It must have been the same personal magnetism which later held me, a 2-year-old boy, to a seat on a wagon wheel while Lincoln delivered a long speech from the vehicle.

In October, 1856, Lincoln delivered an address in the Eureka college chapel, campaigning for Fremont, the first Republican candidate for the Presidency. It was a pleasant, moonlight evening, and the chapel windows were open on both sides. Seated on the grass near the south side of the building was a bunch of two-score men and boys, who, when Lincoln began to speak commenced to yell. "Hurrah for Fillmore! Hurrah for Fillmore!" Lincoln paid no attention to them. In a few minutes he put those of us who filled the room into a tumult of laughter and cheering, by

an anecdote. In a few minutes it happened again, and the rowdies outside began to gather about the open windows to see what was going on. Soon they were all looking in at the windows listening as interestedly as the rest of us. Another proof of his personal magnetism.

On the afternoon of Oct. 7, 1856, I stood with about 20,000 other fans, on the campus of Knox college at Galesburg, and listened for three hours to one of the debates between Lincoln and Douglas held in Illinois that year. Douglas spoke an hour, Lincoln an hour and a half and Douglas half an hour. Douglas had a booming bass-drum voice and made everybody hear. Lincoln, with his ringing tenor voice sent his words like bullets into every ear. But the moral tone of their speeches was as different as that of their voices. Douglas' speech had no appeal to the conscience. He "did not care whether slavery was voted up or down" by his "popular sovereignty." Lincoln did care and denounced the wrong of slavery, saying "if slavery is not wrong nothing is wrong."

The evening before the debate I boarded a train at Peoria on my way to Galesburg. Soon Lincoln came in attended by one man. They took a seat across the aisle from me. Lincoln wore a big gray shawl, and a somewhat rusty stovepipe hat, and carried a carpetbag. That was the way he went to his several debate appointments. Douglas went to them in an elegant special train with an elaborate cuisine and a brass band. When Lincoln was splitting rails along the Sangamon he had as a companion and fellow-worker, Jim

Sanders. Sanders was six feet four, just Lincoln's height but he was a broader, heavier man, and of marvelous strength and physical endurance. He went about in the coldest weather wearing a light blouse, his flannel shirt open at the bosom. I saw him ride into Niantic one morning thus dressed when the thermometer was below zero. He had ridden from his home south of the Sangamon, facing the north wind, holding the bridle reins, without gloves, for four miles. He came from the mountains of Tennessee and built the first home in that Sangamon region. He was an ardent Democrat. Lincoln was a Whig but they were the best of friends. When early in 1861 Lincoln was leaving Springfield for Washington nearly all the people of the city and surrounding country were at the station to see him off. Just before he went aboard the train a gigantic man pressed his way through to bid him goodbye. Lincoln grasped his hand and it was "Jim" and "Abe" as of old time. Sanders raised his hand aloft and said, "Abe you are going to be President. I ask of you when you are in office you will do the right." Lincoln said, "Well Jim, if I know what it is." Sanders said, "I believe you." He was still a Democrat, but like thousands of other Democrats, he had faith that Lincoln would do right if he could know what it was.

Wife and I were living in Springfield in 1865. One bright, calm, warm spring day the news came that Lee had surrendered and that the war was ended. Business and the home duties were abandoned and nearly the whole population spent the day in Capital Square (now the Courthouse square), singing, laughing, talking and making merry. Within a few days came the word, "Lincoln was assassinated last night." Again business and homes were abandoned and the people gathered again in the Square huddling together like cattle in a blizzard, trying to shield themselves from the pelting storm of grief. Springfield, Lincoln's home, was plunged from a higher zenith of joy and hope to a deeper nadir of grief and despair than any other community.

Eureka, Illinois, March 16, 1931.

# Shelbyville

*Lincolnland*  
*April, 1972*



**JAMES O. FINKS**  
Mayor, Shelbyville, Ill.

I am very happy to invite and welcome you to Shelbyville and Shelby County. In your travels we do hope you can find the time to visit our area for an hour, a day, a week or a month.

Abraham Lincoln spent considerable time in Shelbyville and Shelby County in his younger years and when he was riding the Circuit. He stayed at the Tallman House Inn and held Court in the old Court House. He also visited his close friend Judge Anthony Thornton, whose home still stands, on many occasions. The two friends were old line Whigs who stomped for Henry Clay for President.

It was in Shelbyville in June 1856 that Lincoln began his historic debates for Civil Liberties against Judge Thornton. A very large painting of one of their debates, painted by a local painter Robert Root, who later became famous, now hangs in the Court House.

I am sure you will also want to visit and spend some on our new and beautiful Lake Shelbyville. This huge blue lake has a wooded shore line of 250 miles. There will be 16 camping and recreation areas with a total of 6245 acres — 5 Marinas —

2 wild life areas with a total of 6100 acres — several beaches and swimming areas. Fishing abounds with over 20 varieties including northern pike, walleye, small and large mouth bass, — catfish and pan fish. The Lake and all recreation areas are operated and maintained by U.S. Corps of Engineers and the State of Illinois.

We also have many other points of interest, such as, a 100 ft. covered bridge built in 1868 and recently restored. A State Forest area in the Southern area of the County. In the Shelbyville City Park the Chautaugua building which was built in the early 1900's. This unique building resounded to many famous orators, over the years, such as William Jennings Bryan, Billy Sunday and many others.

And of course our finest asset of all — many hundreds of the very finest of people.

Come see us — you will enjoy our area. For further information write Shelbyville Chamber of Commerce.

**JAMES O. FINKS**  
Mayor, Shelbyville, Ill.



Shelbyville, Illinois, located atop a bluff overlooking the Kaskaskia River, is a city aware of its rich heritage while awake to the bright promises of the future.

Named after Isaac Shelby, a Revolutionary War General and later Governor of Kentucky, Shelbyville is the seat of Shelby County. The same sturdy pioneer spirit that carved the beginnings of this town out of the wilderness in 1827 is still at work today growing and building for the future.

When young Abraham Lincoln began his frequent visits to the Shelby County Court, friendly Kickapoo Indians were still in the area. It was in Shelbyville in June 1856 that Lincoln began his historic debates for civil liberties against Anthony Thornton of Shelbyville. Later, he debated Stephen Douglas throughout Illinois, and these debates led to Lincoln's election as President during the stormy Civil War era.

**"LINCOLNLAND" Helpful?**  
Please tell the advertisers.



**Shelbyville and  
Shelby County  
Points of Interest & History  
Shelbyville—The Queen City**

Located at junction of State Rts.  
16 and 128.

**New Lake Shelbyville . . .**

A deep blue lake with a wooded shore line is formed by a dam over 3,000 feet long — located at the East edge of Shelbyville, constructed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers at a cost of nearly \$75,000,000 — operated by the Corps of Engineers and the State of Illinois. The lake extends over 32 miles up the Kaskaskia River and has a shore line of 251 miles. It has 16 camping and picnic areas (a total of 6245 acres), 5 marinas, 3 beaches in Shelby County, and 6100 acres for hunting and game preserve.

Excellent fishing abounds for walleye and northern pike, small and large mouth bass, catfish, and pan fish — stocked by Illinois Department of Conservation.

**Lincoln Country . . .**

Lincoln stayed at the Tallman House, which was just East of the present court house, and held court in the old court house while riding the circuit. Lincoln was a close friend of Judge Anthony Thornton, a Shelbyville lawyer, whose home still stands. The two friends were old line Wiggs who stomped for Henry Clay for President.

**Thompson Mill Covered Bridge . . .**

A 110 foot covered bridge, near Shelbyville, erected in 1868, is one of very few restored covered bridges remaining in Illinois. It is maintained by the State.

**SHELBYVILLE  
MERCHANTS  
INVITE YOU  
TO STAY  
AWHILE!**



Sullivan , Ill      Freeland Grove L. Spoke Here [SOona Photo]





Tolono, Illinois  
August 14, 1951

Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

The Lincoln plaque at Tolono, Illinois is located west of the railroad station--south of the Wabash and west of the Illinois Central tracks.

The historical accuracy of the site has been attested by Paul M. Angle, former secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society, and the late Clint Clay Tilton, Danville, an authority upon Eastern Illinois history, and a former president of the state society. According to Tilton, the train did not stop at Danville, only slowing down, and Tolono had the honor of having heard Lincoln the last time he made an address in Illinois.

At present, there is some talk by the local Lions Club of moving the plaque to a point accessible from a road. U. S. Route 45, from which the site could be reached originally, has been depressed under the Wabash tracks, so that now the site is almost inaccessible.

The tablet was placed by Alliance Chapter, Champaign and Urbana, D. A. R., and was dedicated in July, 1932, with Mrs. W. S. Monroe, then regent, officiating. The 1932 Senior Class of Tolono High School also made a donation toward the installation of the foundation. Mr. D. S. Maxwell, Tolono, says he has a picture of the dedication ceremony.

The tablet reads:

Abraham Lincoln made his farewell address to the people of Illinois at Tolono station February 11, 1861.

"I am now leaving you on an errand of national importance, attended as you are aware, with considerable difficulties. Let us believe, as some poet has expressed it, 'Behind the cloud the sun is still shining'. I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Yours truly,

*Earl B. Shuckland*

August 17, 1951

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS AND WO

Mr. Earl B. Strickland  
Tolono, Illinois

Dear Mr. Strickland:

Thank you very much for your information with respect to the inscription on the marker at Tolono. We are anxious to use it in a current issue of Lincoln Lore and we will be happy to send you a copy when it is ready. Hence, please accept our sincere thanks for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JK  
L.A. Warren

Director

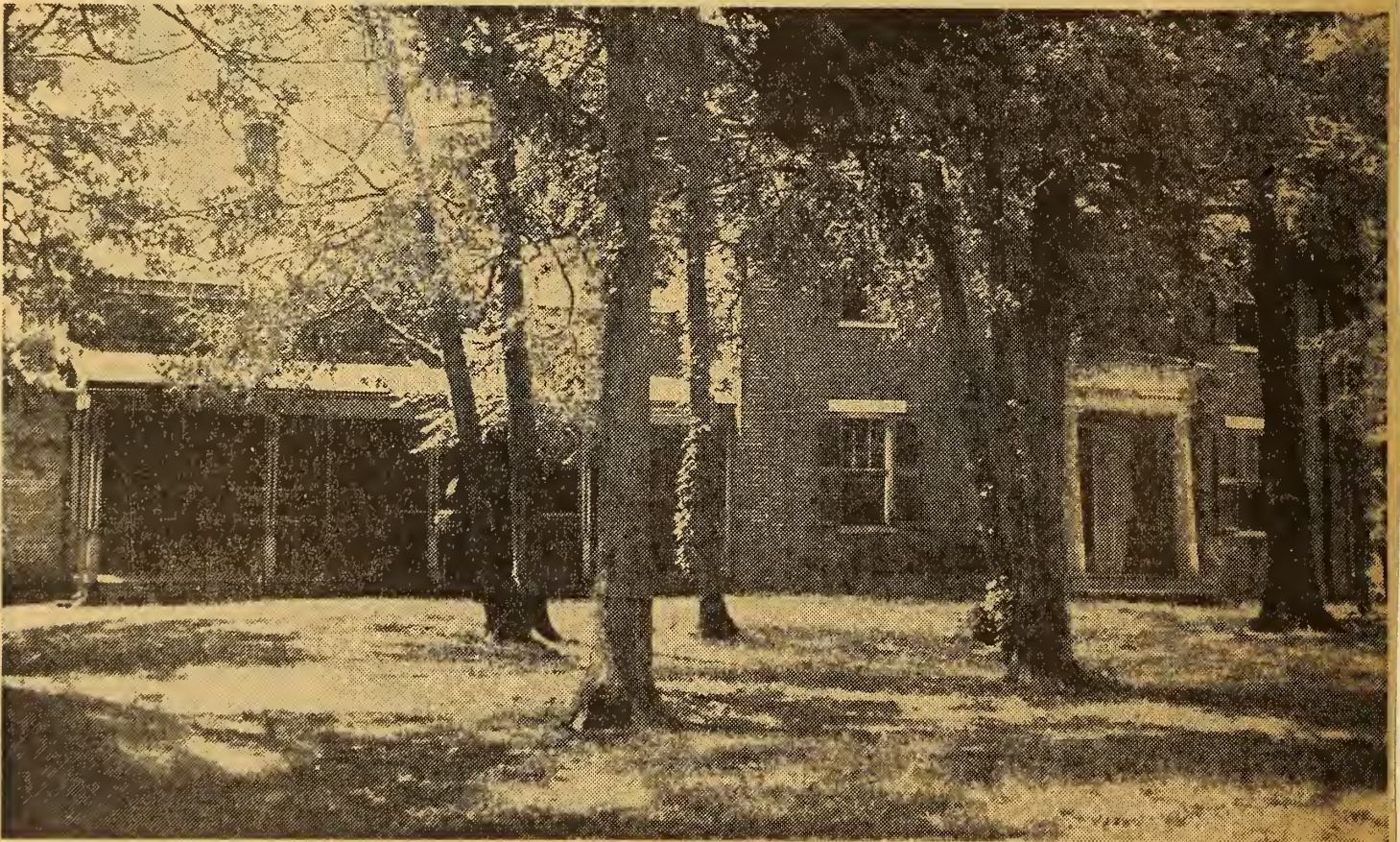


Tremont, Ill.

TWENTY-TWO PAGES TODAY

THE PEORIA JOURNAL—PEORIA'S GREATEST

# CENTRAL ILLINOIS AND WO

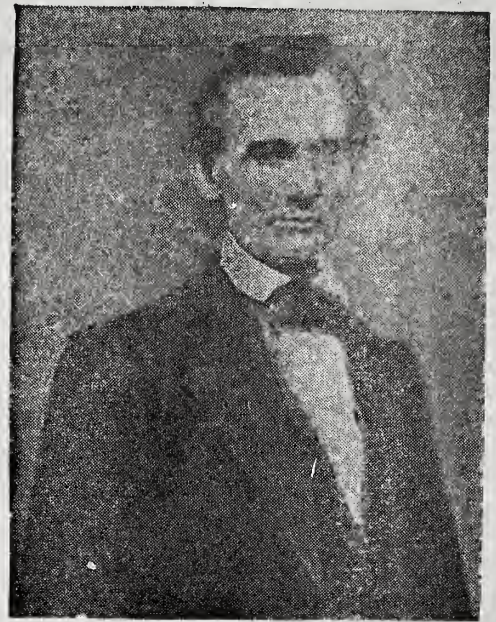


**LINCOLN VISITED THIS TREMONT HOUSE**—One of the historical homes of Tremont is the old Menard homestead, now occupied by the E. L. Storrer family. Lincoln often visited in this house, which is said to be 96 years old. (Journal-Transcript Photo.)



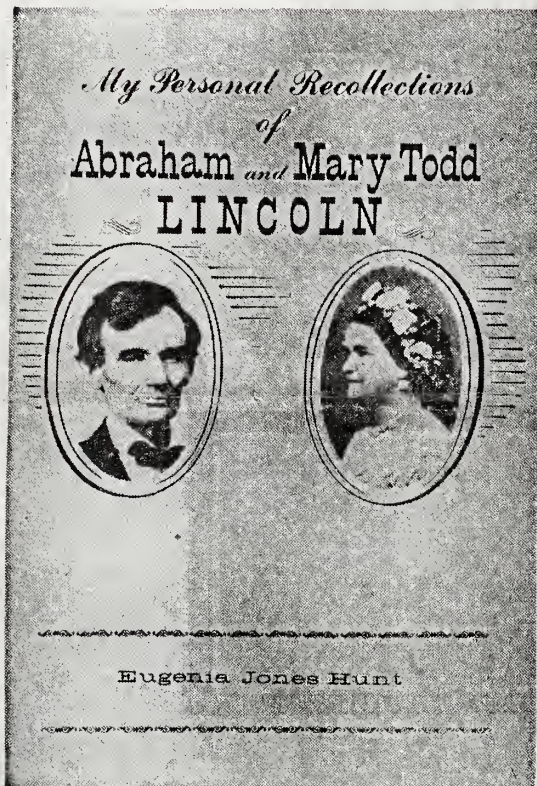


# When Abe Lincoln Used To Stop In Tremont



Brady Photograph of Feb. 27, 1860

By THEO JEAN KENYON  
Staff Writer



Cover Illustration For Eugenia Hunt Book



Miss Helen Moser, Peoria research technologist who loved a book enough to turn publisher. Her aim: to benefit other people and the Washburn Library in Tremont.

Mr. Lincoln tossed her over his shoulder when she was a child, he once apologized to her mother for coming to call in a shabby coat out at the elbows, saying 'you know, Mrs. Jones, travelling is very laborious,' and when he died her father was a pallbearer.

Eugenia Jones Hunt who was as she says "baptized in politics" at prairie meetings where Lincoln, Owen Lovejoy and Peter Cartwright were the platform orators, wrote her recollections of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln in her 97th year, and lived to be 101.

Her recollections, as fresh as if they had been written the day of each event, will be in print in full for the first time this Lincoln's Birthday—20 years after her death—because a Peoria woman couldn't bear to have others miss that enjoyment.

Miss Helen A. Moser, 2705 NE Madison Ave., research technologist at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory here, opened the sale of the 76-page booklet on Feb. 1.

It is her first venture into the publishing business, and it began when a fellow lab employee, Ronald Montgomery, brought her one day last year the bound typewritten copy of Mrs. Hunt's recollections which he had come across in the Esther Washburn Library at Tremont, Ill.

"I loved the book, and I felt other people should be able to read it," Miss Moser said recently.

She wrote to the Illinois State Historical Society and found it had published excerpts of the work in 1945 but not the complete manuscript. The Society furnished the name of Mrs. Hunt's daughter and eventually Miss Moser tracked down the single heir remaining, a granddaughter, Mrs. William T. Lusk of New Canaan, Conn. who gave permission to publish.

Miss Moser obtained a copy-right, a Library of Congress catalogue number, and contracted with the Kauffman Letter Service, Inc., 1213 W. Bradley to set the book in type. The

first 1,000 copies rolled off the presses in mid-January.

The book which will sell for two dollars (\$2.25 by mail) is underwritten by Miss Moser. Any profits beyond printing expenses will go to the Washburn Library in Tremont. Copies are available at Miss Moser's home, the Peoria Historical Society Museum, 912 NE Glen Oak Ave., and at the library in Tremont.

In a decade of heavy tones on Lincoln, it is a pleasure to read Eugenia Hunt Jones.

The book has an immediacy and freshness seldom to be found in later, more ponderous and annotated works about Lincoln. It does bring, as Miss Moser says in her preface, "great joy" to the reader.

Mrs. Jones' recollections are neither lengthy nor obtuse, and they are almost constantly entertaining in the sense that they bring us intimate homely glimpses of the Lincolns, and bits of information about "Mr. Lincoln" that underscore his humanity in yet new ways.

She writes with disarming simplicity of events that have too often been sickled over with excessive prose.

She has a sharp eye and a candid turn of speech, and she does not hesitate to comment even on an Episcopal bishop's manners.

Among the early visitors she recalls in the home of her father, John Albert Jones, for more than 20 years clerk of the Tazewell County Circuit Court, were Philander Chase, the first Episcopal Bishop of Illinois, and Abraham Lincoln.

"The Bishop was engrossed with my father, chiefly over the ever present financial problem to raise funds to build a church in Tremont; meanwhile continuing to hold his services in our dining room.

"I recall the scenes in that large room—the worshippers seated before the blazing logs crackling in the fireplace, the chanting, the Bishop's melodious voice, the singing accompanied by the piano and violin. My mother would ask the country parishioners to remain to dinner

and the afternoon services. Sunday was not a day of rest, as between services, we repeated the catechism to my father, had prayers, and sang many hymns."

She recalls that Mr. Lincoln "frequently stretched his long legs under our dining room table" and she notes that he did not drink out of the water pitcher at dinner "although the Bishop would grasp the pitcher when a waitress attempted to refill his glass, and take a long draught of cold water."

Adds Eugenia somewhat tartly, "It was not a faux pas for the Right Reverend Bishop Chase."

On the prairie political scene she was indoctrinated early.

"I got my baptism in politics, attending political meetings with my father, Lincoln, Lovejoy and Peter Cartwright were my childhood heroes."

Writing this at the age of 97 she adds "radio has absorbed our old-time soapbox platform oratory, including our rallies and our picnics with declamations."

Rallies on the Illinois frontier were sociable events, and Mrs. Hunt offers a colorful picture of the political free-wheeling and vigorous social debate and dissent of the day.

"Our political rallies on the frontier were holidays for the entire household. No matter whether it was a Whig, Democrat, Turner, No-Nothings, or 'Free-Soilers' celebration, at early dawn we could hear the ereaking of wagons by oxen, the horsemen cantering, a few old coaches and gigs, all bent on a gala day."

Between the speeches and songs "red tablecloths spread on grassy plots, which were soon covered with plates of fried chicken, ham sandwiches, pies, hardboiled eggs dipped in beet juice, a pretty red, and cakes galore. A brush fire was built to heat the coffee. Babes in arms were much in evidence, and they apparently disturbed neither the orators nor the audience."

In later years, she observes,



"consternation prevailed and our national senators blushed with embarrassment when a mother in the Senate gallery nursed her infant, and the family was removed." She makes it clear such a scene was commonplace in the political rallies of her Illinois childhood.

Caught up in the political zeal of the times with her family, she went to many of the rallies. Two she notes in her book concern Peoria and Pekin in 1856 after John Calhoun Fremont of California was nominated for President at the first national Republican convention.

"One of the largest rallies was at Peoria. When my father drove onto the bridge, crossing the Illinois River, we got jammed into the procession and were obliged to follow the bands through the streets for several hours until the paraders disbanded. "Lincoln and Owen Lovejoy, a candidate for the U.S. Senate, were the prominent speakers of the day.

"Another grand rally in Pekin was an all day and evening jollification. Supper was served in the Court House. In the early days," writes Mrs. Hunt, "all of our festivities were given in the Court Houses, being the only available buildings to entertain crowds.

"The coffee, in fact all bulky edibles, were served from the homely washbowl. Lincoln, Arnold, Lovejoy and Judge Trumbull were the orators. It was a late hour when the Tazewell boys' quartette sang their last campaign song."

Adds Mrs. Hunt "the coffee was acclaimed the finest and richest they had ever tasted. The next day when the washbowl was emptied, Seth Chandler's old fur hat was found with the coffee grounds."

Beginning with her earliest memories of "Mr. Lincoln" as she calls him throughout, when as a lawyer riding the Eighth Circuit he was a frequent visitor to her family's "Red Brick" in Tremont, she gives us a clear image of "the tall and gaunt man who moved quietly, dressed plainly, and usually sat silently, frequently twirling his thumbs, apparently in deep thought."

With the children he was more at ease, "we all loved Mr. Lincoln; he was kind and gentle. He was fond of children and would romp with us, toying us over his shoulder, and he told many funny stories."

To her he was never the crude backwoodsman that opponents and Eastern critics liked to call him when he became President. She saw him through her parents' eyes first, as an able lawyer of whom her father and other attorneys always spoke well.

She did know that the contrast between his own early poverty and pioneer background, and that of Mary Todd, a gently-reared daughter of Kentucky, caused him distress. Her recollections show that the matter was probably discussed by Lincoln's neighbors and contemporaries as much as it has been discussed by historians ever since.

And while Lincoln was married when she first knew him, Eugenia must have heard many accounts of the romance from her parents and others.

Consider this lively account of the Lincoln-Todd wedding, Nov. 4, 1842, recalled for Eugenia in



From an Ektachrome Transparency by Helen Moser

### The Menard Place Today, A Private Home In Tremont

the late 1860's by Mary Todd Lincoln's sister, Frances.

"Be assured, Eugenia, it was a hurry-burly day. How we hustled! I had a whole boiled ham which I took over for the wedding supper, and I made the bride's and groom's cake. It was a pretty and gay wedding. The ladies were in lovely evening gowns. Sister Mary was bandsome in her beautiful bridal dress of white satin, with her pearl necklace, earrings and brooch. Miss Lina Lamb and Julia Jayne (later the wife of Judge Lyman Trumbull, one of Lincoln's great friends) were Mary's bridesmaids. After the ceremony, congratulations and the wedding supper, we danced until midnight in those spacious parlors of Ninian Edwards (Mary's brother-in-law).

In Springfield where the Lincolns spent their honeymoon and lived, their board bill at The Globe Tavern was four dollars a week. That was considered "high" says Mrs. Hunt, for as a bachelor Lincoln's board bill per week was one dollar at the home of a Presbyterian minister.

"Apropos of Lincoln's board bill — I quote prices from the Tazewell Whig, published in Tremont, Ill. on Feb. 21, 1846.

"For sale by the pound—butter ten cents, coffee six cents, sugar nine cents, venison two and a half cents; quail twenty five cents a dozen, turkey fifteen cents each, a dozen eggs, six cents, wood one dollar a cord, flour one dollar and a half per barrel."

Liver and sweetbreads which she notes sell at prohibitive prices now, were given or thrown away, and there were no vegetables advertised as everybody had his own garden.

Mrs. Hunt lived through the tragedy of Civil War; her father went to Washington, D.C., as a statistician for Mr. Lincoln, his long time friend, but the family did not move to the capitol.

"My parents decided it would be unwise to move to Washington with their six children during the war. Not only were my father's old friends chiefly Southern sympathizers (he had lived in Georgetown in the District of Columbia before coming to Illinois) but the city swarmed with spies and traitors. Therefore, family life pro-

ceeded at an even tempo in Illinois, no doubt."

The Tazewell County boys were encamped near Tremont, and Eugenia recalls "we enjoyed visiting their bivouacs." Like young men of most wars "they were jubilant and anxious to move on to action."

Her mother organized parties for paring and coring apples for Union troops. "Our dining room and kitchen would be full of humanity and apples. The sliced apples would then be spread over the roofs and frames in the yard to dry, and bushels packed for shipment."

She gives lucid glimpses of the progress of the war as viewed from those who had to stand and wait. She became a teen-age wife whose young husband served on the Union Army's frontlines, but she still had relatives on the Southern side.

When Gen. Ben Butler occupied New Orleans in April 1862, she tells of her Uncle James Jones, a physician, who wrote the family "I was not molested, although I refused to take the oath of allegiance."

Her own intimate knowledge of how a family could be divided by the war, with near and dear members in both North and South, gives her perhaps a special compassion for "Mr. Lincoln" and rallies her to the side of Mary Todd Lincoln who suffered the taunts of radical Northerners because she, too, had relatives in the South.

"It was true that her two half-brothers were fighting against the Union, and also that her brother-in-law, General Helm, was in the Rebel Army. Congress had appointed a committee to investigate the charges of Mrs. Lincoln's disloyalty. The President, unannounced, walked into their conference with a very sad face. Holding his hat in his hand, he said: 'Not a member of my family has given information to the Confederacy.' Then, replacing his hat, he walked out as silently as he had entered. The committee therewith disbanded.

"No wife was ever more loyal," writes Mrs. Hunt, and she adds "it was due to her perspicacity that having recognized his calibre, she led him by strides, not steps, to the White House. Our country owes a great

debt to Mrs. Lincoln; but for her ambition the world might never have known one of the great figures of all time."

It is not, however, as a great figure, that Eugenia Jones Hunt presents Mr. Lincoln, but as a man of everyday humanity with no pretensions to power or its privileges.

"Only once did I hear of Mr. Lincoln asserting 'I AM THE PRESIDENT.' On that occasion he overruled the edict of the Secretary of War to have a soldier shot for desertion.

The personal sense of loss that Lincoln's assassination brought to the nation, is well described by Mrs. Hunt, to a generation that still has the assassination of President Kennedy in mind.

Her father went to the White House to pay his respects to Mrs. Lincoln.

"When Tad (the Lincolns' 12-year-old son) saw my father,

he ran up to him and asked 'Mr. Jones, wouldn't you like to have something of my father's?' 'Yes, Tad, but of no value.' Tad led my father to his father's desk and gave him two pens, the last his father had used. They are not quills, such as the historians and films portray, but ordinary wooden holders with a steel point. He also gave him a small brass pen rack, with one end broken off, and his father's toothpick, made of a piece of the Atlantic cable wire."

Still later the funeral train brought Mr. Lincoln his long last journey home and "My brother, Albert, and I, with many others, stood from two o'clock A.M. until daybreak, to see the long, heavily draped train on the Chicago & Alton.

"All that was mortal of Abraham Lincoln was conveyed in a decorated plate glass hearse with six black horses, each horse with a black plume on his head, to the State House, where his body lay that day and that night in the Hall of Representatives, where he had served four terms in the State Legislature.

"The hall was draped with black velvet with fringe of silver. The black velvet festooned all around the walls was a wonderful background for the palms and evergreens with masses of white flowers."

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, delivered just two months before on March 4, 1865, was read at his funeral services in Springfield on May 4, 1865 in the State House.

Mrs. Hunt writes of the address "it remains forever one of the most remarkable public utterances" and says "this inaugural speech has not its equal in sincerity, beauty and eloquence."

Why? Perhaps because, in it, Lincoln, the leader of an army soon to be victorious, clearly

Continued on C-18



The Late Eugenia Jones Hunt

Born in 1846 in Tremont. Died 1917.





Photo by Larry Brooks

'RED BRICK' HOME WAS BUILT IN 1845 WHEN TREMONT WAS THE COUNTY SEAT

## All-day affair at 'Red Brick' in Tremont

By CLAIRE COOPER  
of the Journal Star

**TREMONT** — Judge Lyman Trumbull hurried down the walk to greet President-elect Abe Lincoln as he arrived at the "Red Brick" to begin one of the largest presidential rallies in the state.

It was an all-day affair with enthusiasts from Chicago, Springfield, Bloomington and Peoria attending.

The "Wide-Awakes," patriotic young men carrying oil-lit torches and dressed in red, white and blue outfits, paraded through Tremont streets and eventually escorted the orators and dignitaries to the grounds of the "Red Brick."

That Tremont home, known as the "Red Brick," was built in 1845 (during the period when Tremont was the county seat) by John Albert Jones, a lawyer who was a close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln.

Jones' daughter, Eugenia Jones Hunt, wrote her personal recollections of the many visits of Lincoln in their home, which today still reflects its original grandeur as it stands at 412 East South St., on the east edge of the village. The downstairs bedroom is still known as "Lincoln's Room."

Hitching posts stand at the end of the sidewalk, which no doubt also accommodated the needs of Judge David Davis and Juhilee College founder, Bishop Philander Chase, who also were frequent visitors to the "Red Brick."

Chase conferred with Jones on many occasions about his financial problems in raising funds to build a church in Tremont, meanwhile continuing

to bold services in the dining room of the "Red Brick" — in the winter the worshipers seated themselves in front of the blazing fireplace and sang to the accompaniment of the piano and violin.

During the Civil War years, the "Red Brick's" orchard yielded its share of Maiden's Blush, Northern Spy and other old-time varieties of apples.

Patriotic Tremonters would arrive at the "Red Brick" with their apple paring machines in hand and after the paring and coring jobs had been completed, the apples would then be sliced and spread over the roofs and frames in the yard to dry. Hundreds of bushels of apples were sent to the Union soldiers from the "Red Brick's" orchard.

Although it has never been proven, the "Red Brick" was rumored to be a station in the Underground Railway. A trap door in a bedroom floor, no longer visible due to carpeting, was said to have been a hiding place for slaves entering Canada via the Underground Railway system.

While the bouse is locally of great interest due to its historic significance, its architecture also has commanded special recognition.

An architectural interpretation of the house, written by Rexford Newcomb in his book, "Architecture of the Old Northwest Territory," published in 1950 by the University of Chicago, gives the following description of the house:

"Of sure classic lineage is the Jones-Menard house at Tremont, built in 1845 by John Albert Jones. It is a solid two-story brick edifice with pedimented ends and plastered walls. A small Doric porch covers the entrance, which is on the

long side of the building. There is a fine staircase of black walnut within the ample hallway; and in the rooms on either side are fireplaces of simple Greek lines."

The Peoria Journal Transcript dated Nov. 14, 1941, also contained an article on the house, written by John Drury of the Chicago Daily News as part of his series on "Old Illinois Houses."

John Jones, who served as government superintendent of statistics during the Lincoln administration, sold the home in 1866 to Peter Menard, the son of Pierre Menard, an early French colonist of Illinois and the first lieutenant governor of the state of Illinois. The house remained in the Menard family until 1920 when it was sold to Wilbur Fox.

In 1945, the bouse was sold to its present owners, Simon and Louise Wagenbach. Louise recalled that when they purchased the old home with its 10 acres of ground they had no idea of its historic significance.

Soon after moving into the "Red Brick," the Wagenbachs had a special visitor — Eugenia Jones Hunt, daughter of John Albert Jones, who, Louise said, related many interesting happenings in the home when Lincoln was a regular guest.

Eugenia, then almost 100 years old, died in 1947 at the age of 101.

Today, the "Red Brick" serves as a bridge between those bygone days when Lincoln was a familiar face in Tremont and the present day village, whose residents will celebrate the town's 150th anniversary this year, June 7-16.

Peoria Journal Star April 25, 1985

1985



## Historic Episodes Depicted in Series of Ten on Front of Lincoln Hall Dedicated at the University of Illinois

### STRONG IN RENDERING

URBANA, Ill.—Episodes in the career of Abraham Lincoln, whom the country desires to honor through the erection of a great national memorial, are embodied in artistic fashion in a series of 10 panels in terra-cotta running across the front of the Lincoln hall at the University of Illinois, which handsome structure was dedicated recently on the birthday of the emancipator. While this particular memorial is of somewhat local concern, yet the manner in which the Lincoln incidents have been illustrated makes the panels of national interest.

Few there are who do not know the career of Lincoln, both up to the time he became chief executive and immediately afterward. The panels give a succinct account of this career. One of them shows the down-river trip of young Lincoln, and his reflections seem to reach the onlooker even as Lincoln sees the selling of slaves with men standing around the auctioneer, who is waiting his time to get the highest bid.

Then there is Lincoln the rail-splitter. The leader whose tall stature and clear thinking later marked him out among his fellow-men stands here in an attitude of resolution. His conclusion has been reached that the tree must bend low under his guiding arm with axe lifted high, and the lesson is exactly to the point when one looks into the years to follow and sees what Lincoln the President did when he attacked great problems that confronted him. Lincoln as the savior of the slave again is brought out in striking relief in another panel where, with outstretched arm, he points to the rising sun and before him members of the black race are lying on the ground in chains.

The famous Lincoln-Douglas debate forms the subject of another panel. Here it is Lincoln the orator who leaps into the thought as one looks on the tall, commanding figure, portraying earnest effort, strong conviction, firm resolve to stick to the road once entered, looming, as it were, from the panel and giving living atmosphere to the terra cotta scene.

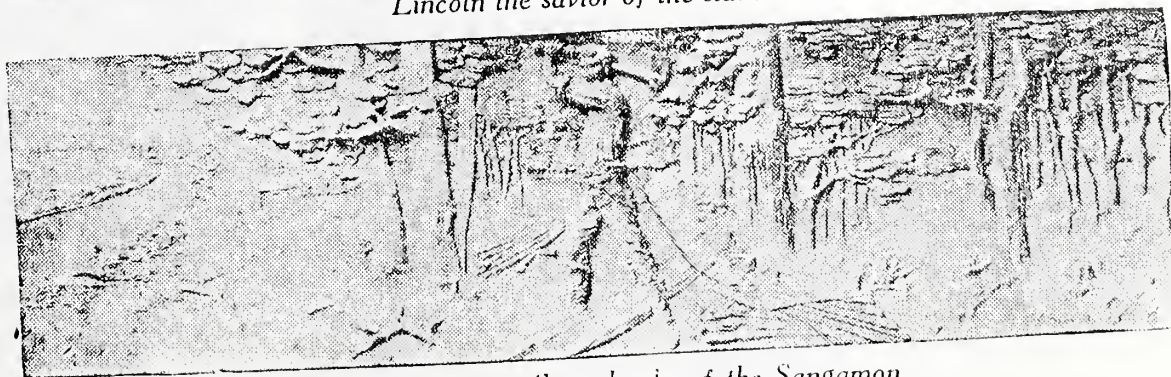
Lincoln's Gettysburg speech has become a classic. Congressional debate as to the nature of the national monument in honor of the people's President has centered much around the Gettysburg address. The story is current that in some instances the words of Lincoln on that historic day have not been recorded in bronze exactly as they were uttered.

The greater is the surprise that such inaccuracies should exist because the Gettysburg speech was remarkably short, clear and to the point. It is now advocated that the greatest care should be taken to place on the national monument the words exactly as Mr. Lincoln spoke them on the occasion.

The panel which illustrates President Lincoln's intentions in word and deed at Gettysburg in the present instance stands exempt from charges of inaccuracies in so far as speech is concerned. It is a mute appeal, telling its own story. As erect in figure as perhaps at any time before or after, President Lincoln's concern about "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" needs no oral interpretation here. There are soldiers on horseback and on foot, the young man resting on the cannon, the woman and men on the platform with the President as he dedicated the battlefield with the words that, "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." That is, perhaps, the thought which comes to mind as one looks upon this panel and the companion pieces on the front of Lincoln hall at the University of Illinois.



*Lincoln the savior of the slave*



*Lincoln splitting rails on banks of the Sangamon*

*© Edwin Beem Monitor 3-19-1913*



# LINCOLN'S LIFE IS PICTURED ON HALL AT CAMPUS

Lincoln Hall, dedicated to the study of the humanities, as a tribute to the sixteenth president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, is being enlarged to house the increased interest in the humanities at the University. The initial appropriation for the building was passed by the Illinois legislature in January 1909, the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Lincoln. The structure was finished in 1911, and dedicated.

The University of Illinois dates its origin from the date of the signing of the Federal land grant act, 1862, by President Lincoln. At the hundredth anniversary of his birth \$250,000 were appropriated by the Illinois legislature for the University to build a hall in his memory. Lincoln promoted the progress of educational institutions in this country.

He once expressed himself, saying "I am most thankful if my labors have seemed to conduct to the preservation of those institutions under which alone we can expect good sound learning and the progress of the liberal arts."

## Lincoln's Life

The motif for the building as carried out by the University has memorial panels, tablets, medallions, and inscriptions, all bearing on the life of Lincoln. Within the memorial entrance hall in brass letters, in the marble floor is a copy of the Gettysburg address.

On the outside of the building, across the front, above the second story windows, are ten terra cotta panels which are scenes from Lincoln's life.

First is "Lincoln Splitting Rails On the Banks of the Sangamon, 1830," then "The Down-River Trip and the Slave Auction, 1831," "The Circuit Rider, 1849," "The Lincoln Inaugural Address, 1861," "Civil War, 1861," "Lincoln, Saviour of the Slave, 1863," "The Address on the Battlefield at Gettysburg, 1863," "Douglas Debate, 1858," "The First Treaty Reached Between the North

and South, 1865," and "The Return to the Plows, 1865."

On the two wings of Lincoln hall are inscriptions of Lincoln's quotations, flanked by medallion portraits in terra cotta of men prominent in state and national life of Lincoln's period. They are: Seward, Chase, Stanton, Welles, Grant, Farragut, Sumner, Adams, Greeley, Turner Douglas, Trumbull, Yates, Oglesby, Logan, Lovejoy, Davis, Palmer, Koerner, Medill.

Some of the quotations from Lincoln's writings and addresses are:

"Slavery is founded in the selfishness of man's nature—opposition to it, in his love of justice."

"A house divided against itself cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free."

"Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

## Other Sayings.

"I hold that, in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution, the union of these states is perpetual."

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection."

"My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and it is not either to save or to destroy slavery."

"In giving freedom to the slave we assure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve."

"The signs look better. The father of waters again goes unvexed to the sea. Thanks, to the great northwest for it."

"That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

"With malice toward none; with charity toward all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."

New-Gazette  
Champaign-Urbana  
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[X News-Gazette.com](#)Published on *News-Gazette.com* (<http://www.news-gazette.com>)[Home](#) > [News](#) > [People](#) > Alderman's research brings plaque, new tree where Lincoln spoke

## Alderman's research brings plaque, new tree where Lincoln spoke

Sat, 09/15/2012 - 8:00am | [Patrick Wade](#) [1]

URBANA — In 1856, it was "a magnificent elm that attracted much attention not only because of its outstanding beauty and size," according to a 1961 index.

But passers-by who see an elm tree now will remember the location at 608 E. Main St. as the spot where Abraham Lincoln spoke to the citizens of Urbana in the shade of a tree.

That magnificent elm was removed sometime in the early 1900s, but Alderman Dennis Roberts, D-Ward 5, wants its memory to be secured with a new tree and a plaque that will be dedicated at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

He hopes the location will preserve Urbana's connection with the president and bolster local Lincoln lore.

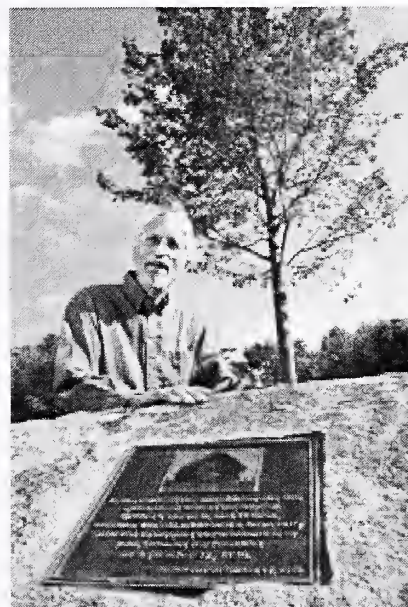
Roberts first came across a picture of the elm tree when he was researching a book.

"There was this intriguing old photograph in the archive," Roberts said. "It was of a huge elm tree that used to grow in east Urbana."

The photo caption: "Big elm tree east of Big Four Shops under which Abe Lincoln made one of his famous speeches." That was enough to get Roberts digging.

He started looking at property deeds, old maps of the city and even used an obituary from the 1904 Champaign Daily Gazette to pinpoint the location. The obituary was for Nancy (Webber) Munhall, believed to be, at the time, Urbana's oldest resident at 73 years old who had been living in Urbana since 1832.

"The old elm tree at her home, said to be the largest in the county, played a prominent part in her life, and she always lived in sight of it," the obituary said. "When she died, the



[2]

**Photo by: John Dixon/The News-Gazette**

Dennis Roberts, an Urbana alderman and east Urbana history enthusiast, kneels next to a plaque and tree marking the spot where Abraham Lincoln gave a speech on Main Street in Urbana.



tree was just a few feet away. Mrs. Munhall stated to her children that seemingly the tree had not grown since she first saw it 70 years ago and believed it must be hundreds of years old. When she first came here the place was inhabited by Indians, and wolves howled around the door at night. There was nothing but prairie and wilderness and frame houses were unheard of."

Roberts thinks he has the location of the elm tree pinpointed to within 200 feet of its original location, and he helped arrange with AutoZone, the current owner of the property, to plant a new elm tree at the spot.

But that still left a major question: What did Abraham Lincoln say under the tree? It took some more digging.

Old newspaper reports recounted a Sept. 17, 1856, all-day rally for John C. Fremont, the Republican Party's first-ever presidential candidate, that was held in Webber's Grove in east Urbana. Lincoln, who would be the party's candidate four years later, spoke there.

"A most sumptuous repast was then served up by the ladies of Urbana, after which the people again assembled at different stands," according to the Chicago Democratic Press.

A Sept. 25, 1856, edition of the Urbana Union published an editorial recalling the speech, during which Lincoln "pleaded the case" for a fledgling Republican Party.

"No one can listen to Mr. Lincoln and with an unbiased mind fail to be convinced of the truth of his position and the honesty of his purpose," the editorial stated. "He is a first-class orator, eloquent, argumentative and a perfect lion in any controversy or cause."

The dates and the locations lined up. Roberts had his match.

He wanted to preserve the site's history, he said, because so many Lincoln-related locations in Urbana have been lost. It makes sense that Lincoln would have visited Urbana often on his rounds on the judicial circuit or during political campaigns, but not many of those events have been preserved in oral or written histories.

Even the original elm tree had been lost until an old photo surfaced, and Roberts said this memory can be saved with a new elm tree.

"It's totally cool, I think," Roberts said.

#1 <sup>[3]</sup>

Greatideas3 <sup>[4]</sup> wrote 1 day 12 hours ago



<sup>[4]</sup>

THANKYOU.

Categories (3): [News](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, [People](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, [Politics and Government](#) <sup>[7]</sup>





